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Six Generations of Black Farmers Keep It in the Family

Roslyn Haynie Banks helps her father, Philip J. Haynie, II to move farm equipment after Sunday worship service at Macedonia Baptist Church in October 2021. Banks, a fifth-generation farmer, remains deeply involved in the business of farming. She operates her farming activities under Adelaide Farms, LLC, located in Lottsburg, Virginia. (See article on page 8)
Photo courtesy of Adelaide Farms, LLC



Business Owner Provides Diverse Technical Solutions with a “ReelTech” Touch

By Andrea Blackstone

Terrell Freeman-EL, owner and lead technician of ReelTech LLC (Revolving Around Technology) began to develop the qualities that he needed to become a successful entrepreneur on the cusp of completing high school at Key School, located in Annapolis, Maryland.

“I started providing IT services right after high school at the age of 18 or 19. I started refurbishing computers and selling them. People would call me to fix their computers. The process would grow as I would grow,” he said.

These technical skills prompted him to print his first business cards.

His mother, Claudia Blackstone, supported her son in various ways, from providing books or a ride, to assisting her ambitious son with the development of his business acumen and technical knowledge.

Freeman-EL considers himself a part of a transition generation. He recalls a time when video games and systems were included on Christmas and birthday lists.

“As technology improved, availability increased and prices came down. Then, we found our way into that lifestyle. My pet peeve was what do I do when it breaks because we weren’t that privileged to just buy it again, or if I did something to break it, I had to learn that lesson.”

During that developmental period, Romell Moon repaired Freeman-EL’s Nintendo controller. He recalls a screwdriver and other tools being used to complete the job.

Then, when Freeman-EL was 13 years old, Charles Blackstone, his uncle who had working knowledge of building computers, flew from Las Vegas, Nevada to upgrade Freeman-EL’s computers.

“I swore he was breaking my computer. He went into his luggage



Terrell Freeman-EL in a server room of a client, post installation and testing of multiple network devices.

Photo courtesy of Terrell Freeman-EL

and pulled out this other box with wires while explaining the whole process to me, cool, calm and collected. I could see it in my head. I saw this magic as it seemed to happen right before me,” Freeman-EL added.

Today, he can be found tending to telecommunications; data recovery; computer repair; home; network and backup and recovery systems for various customers who need onsite or in-person support. IT consulting, computer networking, networking support and more services are also offered through his company. Commercial support is also provided by the entrepreneur who sometimes travels to meet the needs of diverse businesses. He serves Maryland, Delaware, Southern Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia.

“It [ReelTech] is a home-based business, but I’m also a field engineer,” Freeman-EL explained.

His commercial customer’s needs could entail cabling a new facility or



Terrell Freeman-EL works on a motherboard repair and processor replacement of a desktop computer.

Photo: Claudia Blackstone

fixing a problem with existing cabling close by or several states away. Computer issues may even pop up in point-of-sale systems.

Freeman-EL added, “We have a more familiar set of services involving computer and laptop repair, PC repair, and so that’s what ends up building a bridge to the residential side.”

Along the way, Freeman-EL delved into technical jobs. He worked for IBM and managed another company’s five branches, internationally and nationally, before reaching 30 years old. He has used his technical skills on local military bases, the government, and for retail establishments at different levels.

Shortly before the pandemic in 2019, Freeman-EL leaped into full-time

entrepreneurship through ReelTech.

Patrice Johnson, an Annapolitan, entrepreneur and owner of Notary Point has known Freeman-EL since he was a young boy.

“He’s been working on my computers for many, many, many years. I love him so much!” the ReelTech customer remarked.

Johnson explained that Freeman-EL builds her computers, rebuilds them as they age, and installs antivirus software on her computer.

She added, “He just kind of jumps in there and gets the job done for you.”

Freeman-EL shares a tip to keep computers running smoothly. He advises computer users to take care of computer maintenance so little things do not grow into bigger issues. “The maintenance can be as simple as completing updates from Windows, or from Apple, or from the software that has been installed, and it can be updated for that hardware,” he said.

Freeman-EL stays busy running his company, but he made time to become a founding member of Together “WE” Rise, Inc. The mentor program serves boys and girls K- 5th grade in schools in Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland.

He added that individuals took time to mentor him and provide wisdom, so it is also important for him to volunteer and give back.

“Those are things that helped me to become myself and to stay out of trouble. It was a blessing. So, it is important to me to keep that process going.”

Learn more about Freeman-EL’s business via www.Reeltech.biz and Together “WE” Rise, Inc. on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Together-WE-Rise-Inc/100082995019577/>.

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A 5-Part Primer on Artificial Intelligence: Part Five – Minority-Owned Companies in the AI Space

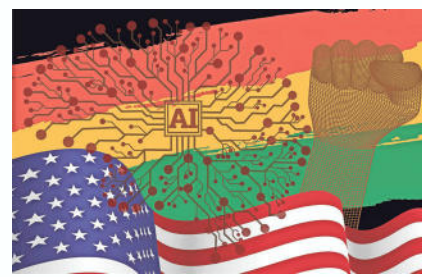
By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

As you may have surmised from our previous articles, AI is quickly becoming ever present in our daily lives, with many minority-owned companies contributing to this revolution. In Maryland, a growing number of minority-owned AI companies are leading the charge, offering cutting-edge solutions that address a wide range of challenges. These companies are not only contributing to the advancement of AI technology but also fostering diversity and inclusion in the tech industry. Below are some of the prominent minority-owned AI companies in Maryland, making an impact in their respective fields.

Sonavi Labs: Revolutionizing Healthcare Diagnostics

One of the standout minority-owned AI companies in Baltimore is Sonavi Labs. Founded by Ellington West, an African American woman entrepreneur, and Ian McLane, a former Hopkins student, Sonavi Labs is at the forefront of developing AI-powered diagnostic tools. The company harnesses advanced acoustic technology combined with AI to create devices that can accurately diagnose respiratory conditions such as pneumonia. Their flagship product, an AI-enhanced stethoscope, uses machine learning algorithms to analyze lung sounds and provide real-time diagnostic support. This technology is particularly valuable in under-resourced settings, where access to medical expertise may be limited. Their work exemplifies how AI can be leveraged to address critical healthcare challenges, making diagnostics more accessible and accurate. Read more about them at <https://sonavilabs.com/>.



*BIPOC-owned run companies are
excelling in the AI tech world.
Graphic Design by Karen Clay*

BigBear: Driving Decision Intelligence

Based in Columbia, Maryland, BigBear.ai is a leader in providing AI-powered decision intelligence solutions. BigBear was founded by former CEO Dr. Reggie Brothers, a renowned minority leader in the AI space, now under the leadership of current CEO, Mandy Long. BigBear.ai specializes in using AI to improve decision-making processes across various industries, including supply chains, logistics, and cybersecurity. The company's AI platform integrates data from multiple sources to generate actionable insights, enabling organizations to make more informed and strategic decisions.

BigBear's technology is particularly valuable in complex environments where real-time data analysis is crucial. As a minority-owned business, BigBear.ai is not only contributing to the advancement of AI but also serving as a model for diversity and inclusion in the tech industry. Read more about them at <https://bigbear.ai/>.

Barrow Wise Consulting, LLC: Innovating with AI and Big Data

Barrow Wise Consulting, LLC, headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, is a minority-owned consulting firm that offers a range of AI and big data solutions. Founded by Tanesia Barrow, the company provides



*Karen Clay,
Clay Technology and Multimedia
Courtesy Karen Clay*

innovative technology services to both federal and commercial clients. They specialize in using AI to enhance data analysis, cybersecurity, and blockchain technology. Through their tailored AI-driven solutions, they are helping organizations harness the power of big data to drive better outcomes, improve decision-making, and increase operational efficiency. Read more about them at <https://www.barrowwise.com/>.

J29 Inc.: Empowering Businesses with AI Solutions

J29 Inc., based in Millersville, Maryland, is another woman-owned AI company making waves in the tech industry. The company focuses on providing AI, big data, and IT services to support both public and private sector clients. J29 Inc. is committed to using AI to help organizations manage large datasets, optimize operations, and improve decision-making processes. Founded by Tracy Mills and a team of minority entrepreneurs, J29 Inc. emphasizes the importance of diversity in driving innovation. Their AI solutions are designed to empower businesses with the tools they need to

stay competitive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Read more about them at <https://j29inc.com/>.

ZingFrog: Breaking the Barrier of Illiteracy

ZingFrog is a Baltimore company founded by Baltimore Times Health Columnist Jayne Hopson, and her husband, KC Hopson. This is one of the latest companies to use text-to-speech to provide a more time-efficient alternative to consuming the news and other written material published online. In a recent article published by The Baltimore Times (<https://baltimoretimes-online.com/latest-news/2024/06/14/zingfrog-ai-cutting-edge-ai-technology-serves-unique-purpose/>), Ms. Hopson noted that ZingFrog was born out of the realization of the troubling illiteracy rate among minority populations and the impact it has on a person's ability to fully leverage the public health and wellness resources available online. Recently, the Hopsons targeted the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) as one of the first large associations through which they will market their product. Read more about them at <https://zingfrog.ai/>.

The rise of minority-owned AI companies in Maryland reflects the growing diversity in the tech industry and the significant contributions these businesses are making to the field of artificial intelligence. These companies are playing a crucial role in advancing AI technology while addressing some of the most pressing challenges in healthcare, cybersecurity, business operations, and information. As they continue to grow and expand their influence, these minority-owned businesses are paving the way for a more inclusive and innovative future in AI.

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PepsiCo Launches “Taste of Tomorrow” to Bring Flavor and Funding to HBCU Students in STEM

PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation are helping to close the diversity gap in the STEM workforce gap by increasing awareness and access for HBCU students through financial support and resources aimed at supporting food science and elevating culinary innovation

PURCHASE, N.Y. – August 28, 2024

– Today, PepsiCo announced the launch of “Taste of Tomorrow,” an initiative designed to increase Black representation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers because, despite the rapid growth of STEM jobs, Black professionals remain underrepresented making up only 9% of the STEM workforce. To help address this disparity, PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation are investing \$350,000 in financial support and providing additional resources to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), particularly for students pursuing careers in food science and technology.

As the employer of choice for STEM careers, this initiative is part of PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation’s efforts to work towards creating flavorful futures for students at HBCUs through the advancement of STEM education and culinary innovation.

“HBCUs are a critical pillar of impact, influence, and opportunity, nurturing the next generation of Black leaders,” said Kent Montgomery, Senior Vice President, Industry Relations and Multicultural Development at PepsiCo. “We are eager to continue our long-standing commitment of supporting diverse talent in our business and provide students with the resources needed to thrive in their careers and make a positive impact on the world. With the launch of this campaign, we’re not only helping to create a more diverse and inclusive workforce for the STEM field, but also drive innovation and progress in the food industry.”



Research shows that lack of access to advanced STEM-related courses in public high schools serving predominantly Black students, a decrease in public programming in urban communities and scarcity in representation of Black high achievers in the field have led to insufficient growth of Black professionals and recent graduates in this industry. With HBCUs at the center of culture, education and long-term career and life advancement, PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation are proudly providing funding and flavor to HBCUs and its students through the “Taste of Tomorrow” to combat this disparity, including:

PepsiCo Foundation is providing \$250,000 in scholarships to HBCU students pursuing STEM degrees across 9 HBCUs for the 2025 school year. Beginning September 9, 2024,

through December 2, 2024, students at Benedict College, Bethune-Cookman University, Florida A&M University, Hampton University, Howard University, Jackson State University, Morgan State University, North Carolina Central University and Prairie View A&M University can apply at <https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/tasteoftomorrow>. Participating schools and application requirements can also be found at the link during the live application period.

Additionally, PepsiCo is honoring and supporting Florida A&M University and Prairie View A&M University by providing \$100,000 total for STEM resources to enhance their programs and foster innovation for long-term advancement of their programs and bringing an R&D educational workshop series to their campuses for further access.

Grant enables Levitas Initiative to expand curriculum

\$500,000 Grant Amplifies Youth Voices in Sexual Violence Prevention Program with Photography

University of Maryland, Baltimore Receives \$500,000 Grant to Fund Levitas Initiative Expansion

BALTIMORE — A \$500,000 grant from the state of Maryland will expand an innovative sexual violence prevention program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) with the power of photography, empowering more middle school-aged youth to combat destructive ideas that lead to sexual violence.

The funding will support the Erin Levitas Initiative for Sexual Violence Prevention, a collaborative effort between the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and University of Maryland School of Social Work in partnership with the Erin Levitas Foundation.

Launched in 2018, the Levitas Initiative aims to prevent sexual violence among middle schoolers through its E.R.I.N. Talk curriculum which uses restorative justice principles to teach middle schoolers about healthy relationships, communication, and bystander intervention.

Beginning in the fall of 2024, the grant will enable the Levitas Initiative to expand its curriculum to additional schools and community partners, implement a new train-the-trainer model, and integrate youth perspectives using Photovoice, an innovative participatory research method. The program currently operates at John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle School and City Springs Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore.

“This recognition by the Maryland General Assembly that we need to be infusing funds into early prevention work is groundbreaking,” said Quince Hopkins, who leads the Levitas Initiative at Maryland Carey Law. “Most funding for sexual violence work supports efforts only after violence has occurred, and then, primarily for criminal legal system response. The amount that comes to prevention is so small in comparison.”

According to Marissa Jachman,

executive director of the Levitas Foundation, the Levitas Initiative is a testament to what can be achieved when passionate organizations come together. “By combining the expertise of Maryland Carey Law and the University of Maryland School of Social Work with the support of the Erin Levitas Foundation, we’re mobilizing students and scholars by engaging young people in conversations early and therefore addressing the problem of sexual violence early, before harm escalates,” she said.

Laurie Graham, assistant professor at UMB’s School of Social Work, will lead the Photovoice project which will be a key component in enriching the E.R.I.N. Talk curriculum with youth perspectives.

The project will provide young people aged 11 to 14 with cameras to document their thoughts and experiences related to sexual violence prevention. The insights gathered from these Photovoice sessions will directly inform updates to the E.R.I.N. Talk curriculum. By incorporating visual elements and perspectives directly from the target age group, the program aims to become more relatable and effective for middle school-aged youth.

“We’re excited that this is a really meaningful project that will collect data and information directly from and in partnership with community members and young people,” Graham said. “My hope is that the findings will also shape sexual violence prevention and other violence prevention programs elsewhere moving forward.”

The Levitas Initiative honors Erin Levitas, an aspiring law student and sexual assault survivor whose life was cut short by cancer. The program aims to carry on her commitment to sexual violence prevention and survivor support.



A Maryland Carey Law student leads a restorative circle at John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle School as part of the Levitas Initiative. Courtesy photos



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MPT's fifth annual HBCU Week runs September 2-8

Special program lineup places spotlight on historically Black colleges and universities including several in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television (MPT) will celebrate historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in September during its fifth annual HBCU Week, a slate of programs sharing informative and inspiring stories about HBCUs and the people who attend, graduate, administrate, and advocate for these important institutions of higher learning. A preview is available at mpt.org/hbcu.

During the week of September 2-8, MPT will offer nearly 30 hours of content – including 13 MPT premieres – across TV, social media, and online platforms exploring the past, present,

and future of HBCUs in the statewide public TV network's viewing area and throughout the United States.

Among the highlights of this year's lineup are two new episodes of the MPT original series *Artworks*; two HBCU-themed *Local, USA* documentaries; special *Direct Connection* and *State Circle* episodes; and eight programs acquired by MPT from independent producers that will premiere throughout the week.

Viewers can find more information about HBCU Week offerings at mpt.org/hbcu. The 2024 program schedule (<https://www.mpt.org/hbcuweek-program-schedule/>) includes

descriptions, previews, and streaming options for each title. Previews are also available in the HBCU Week 2024 YouTube playlist. Audiences are encouraged to contribute to the conversation on social media using the hashtag **#HBCUWeekNOW**.

HBCU Week is part of the statewide network's "Standing Against Racism: Fostering Unity Through Dialogue" initiative. MPT began this long-term initiative in 2020 to stimulate thoughtful discussion and increase understanding of race-related issues in communities across Maryland. More information and resources are available at mpt.org/racism.

In Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Congress defined an HBCU as a school of higher learning that was accredited and established before 1964 and whose principal mission is the education of African Americans. The six HBCUs in MPT's viewing area are Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Howard University, Morgan State University, University of the District of Columbia, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

In 2023, MPT announced the expansion of its long-standing HBCU

See **HBCU WEEK**, page 12



HBCU WEEK
September 2 - 8 on **mpt**

Since 1980, every sitting U.S. president has designated one week in September as HBCU Week. This important week pays tribute to the rich heritage of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Since 2020, MPT has celebrated National HBCU Week with a successful week of programming. This year, for our fifth season, HBCU Week features 30 hours of programming, including 12 premiere films across our TV, social media, and online platforms.

Find out more about our annual salute to historically Black colleges and universities by visiting mpt.org/hbcu.

Logos: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE, STEM CITY USA BALTIMORE, CIAA®, HBCU GO, Fulton Bank

“Farming is Still a Family Tradition”

Six Generations of Black Farmers Keep It in the Family

By Andrea Blackstone

Although Black farmland and the size of their farms have plummeted in the United States spanning recent generations, Roslyn Haynie Banks, a fifth-generation farmer, remains deeply involved in the business of farming. She operates her farming activities under Adelaide Farms, LLC, located in Lottsburg, Virginia.

“Farming is very seasonal,” she remarked.

Haynie Banks is familiar with planting time, when crops must go in the ground; the summer growing season; and the fall harvest season. The mother, author and self-employed accountant currently resides in Williamsburg, Virginia with her two daughters. She recalls the days of spending time at her family’s farm in Reedville, Virginia. Both land ownership and farming are family traditions that extend to another part of Virginia.

“My great-great grandfather [Reverend Robert Haynie], born in 1823, was the first former slave in Northumberland County to own land in 1867,” Haynie Banks explained, mentioning that he purchased 60 acres. She grew up in Reedville with her brother, Philip J. Haynie, III [“PJ”], who became a full-time farmer; and three sisters who are currently doctors and farmers, Merthia Haynie, Jennifer Haynie, and Kimberly Haynie. They are all involved in farming operations and management.

“We all own land,” Haynie Banks added.

She also stated, “Our over 8,000 farmland acreage is spread across the four counties that make up the Northern Neck of Virginia, and then we also expanded into Arkansas. We don’t own all of the land we farm, some of the land is rented to us.”

Their family farming legacy includes six generations: Rev. Robert D. Haynie; Harvey Johnson Haynie; Philip Johnson Haynie, Sr.; Philip J. Haynie, II and



Juliette Banks harvests a bundle of greens by hand in November 2021 to cook at home and to experiment with making homemade strawberry and kale ice cream and kale cotton candy.

Wesley Haynie; Philip J. Haynie, III [PJ], Merthia Haynie, Jennifer Haynie, Kimberly Haynie, Roslyn Haynie Banks; and Colette Haynie, Philip J. Haynie, IV, Trevor Haynie, Isaiah Forrest, Suzette Banks, and Juliette Banks.

“My dad [Philip J. Haynie, II] and his brother, Wesley Haynie are the fourth-generation [farmers],” Haynie Banks stated.

All six of the grandchildren work on the farm, according to Haynie Banks. The youngest person in the Haynie family’s sixth generation is 6-year-old Juliette.

“I, along with my other cousins, all help on the family farm on the weekends and in the summers,” she said. Haynie Banks multitasks, also putting her skills as a finance and accounting professional to good use. She remarked that she worked on the family farm in middle and high school after her father discovered that she possessed very good payroll and invoicing skills. Haynie Banks had observed the banking and office side of family farm operations over time. Haynie Banks was a high school student, serving as the office manager for the farming and trucking operations in Virginia.

Haynie Banks graduated from The College of William and Mary with a goal of becoming a Chief Financial



Juliette Banks, Roslyn Haynie Banks, and Suzette Banks plant tomatoes, marigolds, peppers, and cucumbers in a small garden located in Northumberland County to sell at local farmers’ markets and community events in April 2022.

Officer. She earned her master’s degree in accounting, then became a licensed IRS Enrolled Agent. Her mother, Judith Haynie, now a retired teacher, taught Haynie Banks to do personal income taxes by hand when she was in grade school. Haynie Banks runs a tax practice of her own—Adelaide Rose, LLC.

Haynie Banks also said that she serves as the fractional Chief Financial Officer for some of her family’s business entities.

“People are actually really surprised when I tell them I’m a farmer. And then, of course, they automatically think about produce or animals, and then I have to explain that to them that we are row crop farmers,” Haynie Banks stated.

Corn, wheat, soybeans, barley, canola and rice are the commodities in which the Haynie family grows in Virginia and Arkansas.

“So, our crops are not things that you necessarily see in a garden, like sweet corn. We grow field corn which is sold to companies like Perdue Farms and Tyson Foods,” Haynie Banks further explained.

“PJ” oversees the Arkansas operations where soybeans and rice are grown.



(l-r): Suzette Banks and her grandfather, Philip J. Haynie, II get ready to ride together in the combine to harvest field corn in Heathsville, Virginia. Photos courtesy of Adelaide Farms, LLC

Philip J. Haynie, II, the other full-time family farmer, oversees the Virginia operations.

“Farming is still a family tradition, so it’s always been a family approach for the Haynie’s. My grandfathers on my dad’s side were farmers, so it started with Reverend Robert Haynie. Then, even on my mom’s side, her dad, believe it or not, was a farmer!” Haynie Banks added.

Faith is required to farm. Haynie Banks integrates this idea in a children’s book that she co-authored with her daughters, “Adelaide and Agriculture.”

“We plant the seeds and then we pray. We believe that we will have a harvest and be able to feed everyone,” Haynie Banks stated.

Visit <https://hayniebanks.com> and <http://www.hayniefarms.com> to obtain more information about Haynie Banks, and her family’s farm operations.

Mother and Daughters Pen Informative Books About Family Farming, Family Legacy

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Suzette Banks, 8, has been helping out on her family's farm for three years. The proud farmer in training knows what it is like to assist with planting grains, checking on the fields when it does not rain, and working as a team to grow food.

"My sister [Juliette] and I, along with my other cousins all help on the family farm on the weekends and in the summers," she said. "I learned how much farming is so important. We need farmers to survive. If you didn't have farmers, you wouldn't have natural foods."

Their grandfather is building a produce stand located in Lottsburg, Virginia, to enable the young entrepreneurs to sell books, fresh local produce, lemonade, ice cream, and other merchandise at the location.

Suzette collaborated with her mother, Roslyn Haynie Banks, and her younger sister, Juliette Banks to create "Adelaide and Agriculture." The children's book was published on October 15, 2023. Roslyn explained that her girls wanted to be able to sell copies directly at farmers' markets and other events to interact with readers and other children. The ideal reading age for "Adelaide and Agriculture" is 9 years old and up.

"We wrote this book to share our perspective of a week in the life on our family farm in the Northern Neck of Virginia," Roslyn said.

"Adelaide and Agriculture" allows readers to follow a week in the life of a tax accountant and her two daughters, as they explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) careers on their family farm.

Roslyn added, "This book is the authors' personal tribute to the Haynie

family-farming legacy and represents our vision for future sustainable family farms globally."

Agricultural activities that are presented in the book include growing crops, raising livestock, aquaculture, agritourism, fishing, and forestry. A glossary defining key terms may spark interest in having career discussions after reading "Adelaide and Agriculture."

Suzette already considers herself to be a sixth-generation family farmer. She said that she enjoys working with her family, including grandparents, her aunts, uncles, mother, sister, and cousins to help on the family farm.

"I enjoy providing valuable products to my community and farming is something that I can do with family and friends. I like going to the farmers' markets to support other vendors and entrepreneurs," she added.

Suzette shared more practical wisdom that she gained from farming.

"You won't have any food if you don't take care of the earth," she also said.

The Banks sisters already have been introduced to growing kale, mustard and turnip greens and produce to sell at local events in Virginia and to friends and family. They also donated some of the greens to local churches and community members.

Suzette helped write about the farmers market in the book. "Reading books are [is] good for you, so you can know a lot of stuff," the published author or reader said.

Juliette, 6, likes to read books and paint. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. Juliette helped with "Adelaide and Agriculture" by picking out rhyming words.

Roslyn added that Juliette was also able to provide definitions in her own



(l-r): Juliette Banks, Roslyn Haynie Banks, and Suzette Banks proudly wear their book t-shirt merchandise for the 4th Annual Kidpreneur Expo in Hampton Roads on August 3, 2024. Suzette and Juliette sold books and t-shirts to promote their small business and gave away school supplies at their vendor booth.



(l-r): Suzette Banks and Juliette Banks had the opportunity on August 3, 2024 to sell autographed copies of their book "Adelaide and Agriculture" and their mother's book "Adelaide the Accountant" at the Kid's Expo in Hampton, Virginia. Suzette was a panelist along with other kid entrepreneurs and spoke about the exciting plans she has to grow her small business and write another book about being a military child.

Photos courtesy of Adelaide Farms, LLC

words that other young children could understand. Additionally, she feels very confident about being an entrepreneur and is fortunate to grow up in a family of entrepreneurs who farm together, and who also provide other services to the local community.

Juliette was five years old when the trio began writing "Adelaide and Agriculture."

"I watched my mother write and discuss her first book about accounting and I was excited that she included me in the illustration and the story," she said.

"Adelaide the Accountant" was published in October of 2021. Roslyn, an accountant, author, and angel investor for kid entrepreneurs, penned her children's book during the pandemic while homeschooling her girls on the family farm in Northumberland County.

The story follows a week in the

life of a tax accountant to see which community helpers in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math careers earn and spend tax dollars. "Adelaide the Accountant" is designed for readers of all ages. It contains financial literacy concepts that provide practical education.

"Taxes are very important. We all need to pay our fair share so that we all can succeed!" Roslyn said, noting how the tax system works.

Visit www.hayniebanks.com to learn more about both children's books and Roslyn's small business. The books are also available on Amazon.

Future African Landing Memorial Will Honor First Enslaved Africans in English North America

By **Andrea Blackstone**

African Landing Day was held at Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia on Saturday, August 24, 2024. The event honored the first Africans who were enslaved and brought to English North America in August 1619.

This year's festival also marked the beginning of construction of the African Landing Memorial Plaza, which will include three large bronze sculptures; front panels; The Relief Wall; a back panel; The Arc; and a plaza. The \$9 million project will acknowledge the contributions of Africans in America. Additionally, it will commemorate the landing of the first Africans to the Virginia Colony in English North America in August 1619 at Point Comfort, now known as Fort Monroe.

"Today, we take our first steps to physically create a memorial to the first Africans that arrived at Point Comfort. The land behind us will become a park that welcomes people with new infrastructure, road improvements, parking and lighting," said Glenn Odor, executive director at Fort Monroe.

The African Landing Memorial is funded by federal and state entities, in addition to private and public organizations, grants, and donations. Construction will begin later this year. It is slated for completion in 2026.

"The African Landing Memorial will commemorate a historical event that impacted the history of this nation and forever challenges the concept of freedom and democracy. The Memorial recognizes the resilience and courage of the men and women from Angola who were forcibly brought to Point Comfort (present day Fort

Monroe in Hampton, VA) in 1619. It will be placed on land that belonged for thousands of years to Indigenous Peoples and was used for hunting and fishing by the Kikotan tribe from the 16th Century until their village was destroyed by the English colonists in 1610," per information provided by 1619landing.org.

Odor further stated that it is a generational responsibility to use property located at Fort Monroe to tell the full story of our country's earliest beginnings. Park ranger Aaron G. Firth told The Baltimore Times earlier this year about Point Comfort's historical role. "The 20. and odd" Africans were captured in present-day Angola. They were first forced to exit the ship at Point Comfort, not Jamestown.

"In late August of 1619, a ship flying a Dutch flag called the White Lion, and a couple days later the Treasurer, landed at Point Comfort looking to trade "20. and odd" enslaved Africans for supplies. This was the first documented trade of enslaved Africans in English-speaking North America," he said.

During the commemorative event in Hampton, a Soil Blending Ceremony marked the site of the African Landing Memorial. Officials and guests brought small samples of soil from their homes or from another place to blend with the soil from Angola and Fort Monroe. The establishment of a sister city relationship between Angola's Malanje province and Hampton, Virginia was also announced.

The Fort Monroe Authority; the Fort Monroe National Monument; and various organizations and members of the descendant community are collaborating to create the memorial.



Richard Press, a full-time artist, displays "Then and Now" at this year's African Landing Day. Press artistically illustrates the progress that has been made through notable contributions.

"We are here today to make something beautiful out of the story that begins with unspeakable ugliness. We are here to remember people, ancestors who were robbed of their dignity as human beings, and yet as we gather today, we will sing and dance and celebrate our culture which began as their culture, because this is a story of survival, perseverance, and the determination to look in the face or cruelty and injustice, and to rise above it," Mayor of Hampton, Donnie Tuck, said.

Members of the Tucker family attended African Landing Day. William Tucker was documented as



An African Landing Memorial will be constructed at Fort Monroe. Anthony and Isabella, will be depicted in a bronze sculpture while holding their baby, William Tucker, as a part of the project. The Angolan couple was among the first documented Africans to be brought to North America.

Photos credit: Andrea Blackstone

the first child of African descent, born to Anthony and Isabella, two of the first documented Africans who arrived at Point Comfort to become servants on the plantation of Captain William Tucker and Mrs. Mary Tucker. The William Tucker 1624 Society, a nonprofit, is "dedicated to the education of the greater public about the first Africans to arrive in Virginia," according to the nonprofit's website.

Learn more about the African Landing Memorial via www.1619landing.org.

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HBCU Week

Continued from page 7

Week from an endeavor reaching its footprint in the mid-Atlantic to a project that will grow to reach nearly all households across the country. MPT's national HBCU Week expansion continues this fall with the addition of two new partner stations – bringing the total to six – each of which will produce short films to be distributed on the HBCU Week NOW YouTube channel and packaged into documentaries that will air on public TV's WORLD channel. Further expansion will take place in 2025 with the PBS premiere of an MPT-produced documentary on the life and legacy of Thurgood Marshall; the incorporation of additional content-producing partner stations; the development of an HBCU student film festival in partnership with Black Public Media; and more. Details about MPT's 2024-2025 HBCU Week expansion activities will be announced in the coming weeks.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is the premiere sponsor for MPT's 2024 HBCU Week. The initiative is also sponsored by STEM City USA, CIAA, HBCU GO, and Fulton Bank. The HBCU Week NOW YouTube channel is sponsored by Morgan State University.

HBCU Week 2024 Program Schedule: September 2-8

Monday, September 2

7PM: *Direct Connection Special, Welcome from UMES*

8PM: *Local USA HBCU Week: Beyond the Field* 8:30PM: *The Historic HBCU Photograph*

9PM: *The Morgan Choir: A Joyful Celebration*

Tuesday, September 3

8PM: *History of a National Treasure: Morgan State University*

8:30PM: *Hampton University: One of the Wonders of the World*

9:30PM: *George H. White: Searching for Freedom*

10PM: *Alpha Kappa Alpha: A Legacy of Service*

Wednesday, September 4

8PM: *Dr. Eddie Henderson: Uncommon Genius*

8:30PM: *Artworks: Imani-Grace Special*

9:30PM: *Artworks: The Art of Strings*

10PM: *Afro Blue: A Year in the Life*

10:30PM: *Sounds of the Game 2023*

Thursday, September 5

7:30PM: *Sounds of the Game 2023*

8PM: *The Golden Year: Howard Women's Basketball*

8:30PM: *Inside the CIAA: Impact*

9PM: *Local USA HBCU Week: Tradition and Competition*

9:30PM: *The Dream Whisperer*

10:30PM: *The Morgan Lacrosse Story*

Friday, September 6

7PM: *State Circle Special: Where Do We Go From Here?*

9PM: *Journeys of Black Mathematicians: Forging Resilience*

10PM: *The Calvin Tyler Story*

Saturday, September 7

8PM: *Local USA HBCU Week: Tradition and Competition*

8:30PM: *Local USA HBCU Week: Beyond the Field*

9PM: *Inside the CIAA: Impact*

9:30PM: *The Golden Year: Howard Women's Basketball*

10PM: *The Dream Whisperer*

Sunday, September 8

12PM: *State Circle Special: Where Do We Go From Here?*

1PM: *Shaw Rising*

2PM: *Artworks: Imani-Grace Special*

3PM: *Artworks: The Art of Strings*

3:30PM: *Dr. Eddie Henderson: Uncommon Genius*

4PM: *The Historic HBCU Photograph*

4:30PM: *The Calvin Tyler Story*

5:30PM: *Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming Space*

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Ravens Mourn Death of OL Coach Joe D'Alessandris

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens learned on Sunday, August 25, 2024 that offensive line coach Joe D'Alessandris passed away at 70 years old. Del'Alessandris had been hospitalized due to an "acute illness," according to a team announcement last week.

The team released the following statement on Sunday:

"Joe D.' lived a life of boundless faith, love, devotion and inspiration. As a husband, father, grandfather, friend and coach, Joe made every individual he encountered truly feel like they were the most important person in the world.

"Anyone fortunate enough to have spent time with Joe was forever touched by his genuine and uplifting nature. He had the amazingly rare ability to connect with people in a way that deepened respect, empathy and kindness – further spreading those important virtues into the everyday life of the world.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to Joe's family – particularly his three incredible daughters – during this somber time. Now reunited with his late and precious wife, Toni, we know they are smiling down from above and blessing everyone they dearly love."

Ravens coach John Harbaugh called D'Alessandris "a man of integrity and faith" while crediting him for making so many people better men.

"He was our reader at team mass, and he was loved by all here," Harbaugh said. "He was a great coach and a good man – the kind of person who you are honored to have as a friend. He raised three incredible, beautiful daughters, and he was a most loving husband. His grandkids also



Joe D'Alessandris
Photo: AP Photo/Julio Cortez

adored him. I admired him, loved him and am going to miss him, because 'Joe D.' was a joy. Toni has him back now. May God bless 'Joe D.' forever."

Harbaugh hired D'Alessandris to coach the Ravens offensive line in 2017. D'Alessandris' coaching career spans over 45 years. It started in 1977 as a graduate assistant at Western Carolina. D'Alessandris has had stops in the Canadian Football League and the World Football League. All of these were coaching the offensive line.

D'Alessandris got his NFL job with the Kansas City Chiefs, serving as their assistant offensive line coach in 2008 and 2009. He later had stints coaching the offensive line for the Buffalo Bills and Los Angeles Chargers before joining the Ravens in 2017.

Longtime NFL assistant coach George Warhop joined the Ravens staff when D'Alessandris fell ill earlier this month. It will be a tall order to replace D'Alessandris this season and beyond.

"Coach was the consummate teacher and friend," Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta added. "I will miss him deeply. Our thoughts and prayers go to Joe's daughters and family and everyone touched by Joe's remarkable spirit."

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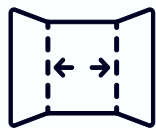


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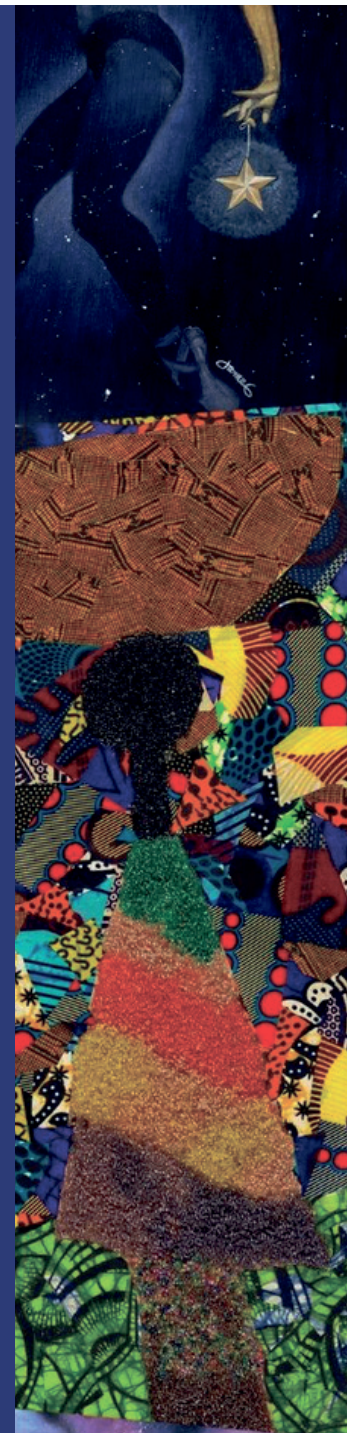
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