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Tenere Robertson Gives Tax Season Tips

Taxes are due on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 this year, but preparing to file taxes can prove to be extremely complicated for the average taxpayer. Tenere Robertson, owner of T. Robertson & Associates, LLC provides personal and business tax preparation, accounting and payroll services, tax planning, and business formation services. The woman-owned business based in Towson, Maryland includes a firm of three women who serve clients in Maryland, Virginia and the DC area. T. Robertson & Associates, LLC also assists several hundred clients and nonprofits in all 50 states. Robertson answers questions about filing 2024 taxes and commonly missed or unknown tax information facts.

(See article on page 2)

Photo by: Samuel Delay Jr.



Tenere Robertson Gives Tax Season Tips

By Andrea Blackstone

Taxes are due on Tuesday April 15, 2025 this year, but preparing to file taxes can prove to be extremely complicated for the average taxpayer. Tenere Robertson, owner of T. Robertson & Associates, LLC provides personal and business tax preparation; accounting and payroll services; tax planning; and business formation services. The woman-owned business based in Towson, Maryland includes a firm of three women who serve clients in Maryland, Virginia and the DC Area. T. Robertson & Associates, LLC also assists several hundred clients and nonprofits in all 50 states. Robertson answers questions about filing 2024 taxes and commonly missed or unknown tax information facts.

Q: Who must file a tax return with the IRS?

A: For most taxpayers, if you had income in 2024 and made more than \$14,600, which is the standard deduction for single filer, then you are required to file a tax return in 2025. This amount does fluctuate based upon your age and filing status. For filers who qualify as head of household, that amount increases to \$21,900, and if you are married, filing jointly that amount for 2025 is \$29,200. However, if you are married filing separately, that filing threshold decreases to just \$5. I typically recommend to my married clients who resided together that we prepare their taxes both ways (married filing jointly and married filing separately) to see which way is more advantageous. All taxpayers who are aged 65 or older get an additional \$1,950 added to each of the above filing status.

Q: What are examples of commonly missed or unknown points of interest to most taxpayers?

A: 1. If you live in one state and earned income in another state, you may be taxed in both states. Some states are reciprocal states such as Maryland and Virginia, so if you work and live in one or the other, you should file the state exemption form so that no taxes are withheld other than for your home state. However, if the other state does not have a reciprocal agreement with your state, then you will need to file a nonresident return for that state and pay any tax liability due.

2. If you work from home, you may qualify as a statutory employee. To qualify as a statutory employee, the box on your W2 in box 13 should be marked and your income is now reported on Schedule C, not the 1040. This will allow you to take deductions such as the home office deduction and any other business expenses you may have although you are a W2 employee.

3. For 2024, if you were a sole proprietor/single member LLC who hired your children, you could pay them up to \$14,599 (up from \$13,849 for 2023). The amount is tax deductible for you and tax free to them, as it is less than the standard deduction filing requirement of \$14,600 for single filers. This amount increases each year to match the standard deduction for single filers. Because the child now has earned income, you can contribute to a children's Roth IRA for them as they would not benefit from a tax break for a traditional IRA, due to them not being required to file a tax return.

4. If you get married or divorced in 2024, whatever you are on the last day of the year is what you are considered to be for the entire year. Not new, but most people are unaware of this rule.

5. If you file a joint return and your

spouse has previous tax obligations to the federal or state or may owe child support, part or all your refund may be used to pay the past-due amount. However, you can file the injured spouse form 8379 and the IRS will figure out what portion of the refund should be allocated to you based up your W2s, etc. and may refund you your portion of the refund and keep theirs.

6. If you purchase a new plug-in electric vehicle (EV) or fuel cell vehicle (FCV) between 2023 and 2032 you may qualify for a clean vehicle tax credit up to \$7,500. To qualify for the credit, you must buy it for your own use, not for resale and it must be used primarily in the United States (within the 50 states) and you must have modified adjusted gross income of no more than \$300,000 if you're married filing jointly. For those filing as head of household, the modified adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$225,000 and \$150,000 of modified adjusted gross income for all other filers. This credit is available to both individuals and businesses, and you have the option of using your modified adjusted income from the current year or the year before purchases whichever is less and will help you qualify for the credit.

Taxes are not one size fits all, so what works for your coworker, or your neighbors will not work for you, which is why it is always best to consult with a tax advisor to discuss your unique tax situation. For every tax law there are several different outcomes based upon the filing status, income, and age of the taxpayer. This is why proper tax planning is essential if you really want to limit your tax liability, but you can't effectively do that if you only meet/speak with your accountant/tax advisor once a year. It is recommended that you meet with your accountant/



*Tenere Robertson, owner of T. Robertson & Associates, LLC provides tax preparation services.
Photo: Samuel Delay Jr.*

tax advisor quarterly so that together you can come up with a plan for your unique tax situation as life changes happen.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/1829TRA> to learn more about T. Robertson & Associates.

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Trump Outlines America First Agenda: What It Means for Black Americans

By **Stacy M. Brown**

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

President Donald Trump has unveiled his American priorities, which include measures addressing border security, economic policies, government restructuring, and social values. While the policies aim to bolster what the administration calls “American values and safety,” they carry profound implications for Black Americans and other marginalized communities.

Border Security and Immigration

The president plans to reinstate hardline immigration policies, including ending “catch-and-release,” reinstating the “Remain in Mexico” program and expanding the border wall. The proposed suspension of refugee resettlement could disproportionately affect Black migrants from African and Caribbean nations who seek asylum in the U.S. Increased deportation operations targeting undocumented immigrants, including those with minor infractions, may further contribute to fears of racial profiling and discrimination in Black and immigrant communities.

Additionally, deploying the military, including the National Guard, to the border raises concerns about the militarization of immigration enforcement. The designation of certain cartels as foreign terrorist organizations could lead to broader enforcement measures that risk overreach and collateral harm to immigrant



President Donald Trump
Photo courtesy of nnpa.org

populations, many of whom are Black.

Economic and Energy Policies

Trump’s plan to “Make America Affordable and Energy Dominant Again” centers on reducing costs through expanded energy production and deregulation. While these measures aim to lower living expenses, they could have mixed consequences for Black Americans. Communities of color often bear the brunt of environmental harm caused by deregulated industries and fossil fuel expansion, raising questions about long-term health and environmental justice.

The administration’s withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord and rejection of renewable energy investments could also slow progress in creating green jobs, an industry where Black workers have begun to gain traction.

Government Reform

In his pledge to “Drain the Swamp,” Trump proposes freezing hiring in non-essential areas of the

federal workforce, with a specific focus on reducing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. This could result in fewer opportunities for Black professionals and reduced attention to addressing systemic inequities in federal agencies.

Plans to reduce remote work among federal employees could disproportionately affect Black workers, who often rely on flexible arrangements to manage systemic disparities such as longer commutes and caregiving responsibilities.

Social Policies

Under “Bring Back American Values,” the president has vowed to uphold traditional gender definitions and push back against what he terms “radical gender ideology.” While the policy may resonate with some, critics argue it risks undermining protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, including Black transgender and nonbinary people who already face high levels of discrimination and violence.

Additionally, the administration’s promise to rename American landmarks to “appropriately honor” U.S. history raises concerns about erasing the recognition of Black leaders and historical figures in public spaces.

Implications for Black Americans

Trump’s America First agenda presents a mix of challenges for Black communities. Policies targeting immigration, environmental regulations, and government reform could exacerbate existing inequities, while the rollback of DEI programs threatens to stall progress toward racial justice.

As the administration prepares to implement these policies, the impact on Black Americans will depend on how federal and state agencies carry out the president’s vision. Critics warn that many of these proposals risk further marginalizing Black communities in an era of increasing social and economic disparities.

“No administration can ignore the lasting impact of its policies on communities already fighting systemic barriers,” a civil rights advocate said.

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Commentary

'Daddy's Back' Elected Officials Face Backlash for Paternal References to Trump

By Stacy M. Brown
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Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL) stirred up some controversy with some unsettling remarks during a Fox News segment, enthusiastically predicting public approval for Trump's forthcoming policies. "When Americans see deportations or repatriations happen, they're gonna be like, 'Thank you!' When they see the border closed, they're gonna say, 'This is what I voted for,'" Donalds explained. "When they see peace starting to break out again around the world, they're gonna be like, 'This is the stability that we were asking for.' Daddy's back! And that's what you're going to see."

The trend of using the paternal term continued with Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO), who tweeted, "Daddy's home!!" alongside an image of Trump on TIME magazine. Charlie Kirk, founder of the right-wing Turning Point USA, also embraced this narrative, posting, "Dad is home," next to Trump's official portrait.

MAGA rapper Tom McDonald and comedian Roseanne Barr joined to release a track titled "Daddy's Home," where they chant, "We won, you mad, it's done, too bad, boo-hoo, so sad, now your daddy's home." Kid Rock also tapped into this rhetoric at a pre-inauguration concert, roaring to his audience, "Check the stats, stop throwin' stones! Straighten up, sucker, 'cuz Daddy's home!"

Criticism of the language was immediate and severe. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and a former NAACP president, criticized the use of "daddy" to describe the president.

Chavis declared that Donalds' comment was highly inappropriate and wreaked of submissiveness.

"Daddy is not home; Donald Trump is not our daddy. He's the president of the United States. No matter who's in the White House, they're not daddy," Chavis remarked with a decisive rebuke of the congressman.

"This shows another bending of the knee, another kissing of the ring when people need to be objective. Black people, in particular, should never stoop to being submissive to power," he said.

Journalist Ahmed Baba also responded to the trend with alarm and embarrassment. "No amount of money or power is worth going



Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL)

Photo courtesy of nnpa.org

on national television and calling Donald Trump 'Daddy.' I would spontaneously combust from embarrassment. I could never show my face in public again. I would exile myself in the Himalayas; this is flabbergasting," Baba commented.

David Ryan Miller, an associate professor at American University, joined in the critique, noting that Donalds' comment contradicts the alpha male image promoted by Trump's supporters. "Don't all of the Trumpists aspire to be alpha males? Is there anything more beta than referring to another man as 'daddy'?" Miller questioned.

Cold Weather Safety for Children

By The Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center

Children are more vulnerable than adults to the effects of cold weather. The Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center developed these tips to help families and staff keep children safe, healthy, and warm in the winter.

Bundle up!

- Children are at greater risk for frostbite than adults. The best way to prevent frostbite is to make sure children dress warmly and don't spend too much time outside in extreme weather.
- Dress children in layers of warm clothing. If the top layer gets wet, they will still have a dry layer underneath.
- Tuck scarves inside coats and jackets to prevent them from becoming strangulation hazards.
- Car seats and winter coats don't mix. Bulky coats can compress in a crash and create a loose car seat harness. Instead, lay the jacket or a blanket over the children once you've safely strapped them into their car seat.

Keeping Healthy Outdoors

- There's no set amount of time for children to play outside safely when the weather is cold. Use your best judgment. When the cold becomes unpleasant, it's time to go inside.
- If you are unsure if weather conditions are safe for outdoor play, check the Child Care Weather Watch Chart (<https://www.c-uphd.org/documents/wellness/weatherwatch.pdf>).
- Have children come indoors periodically to prevent hypothermia or frostbite. A temperature of 0 degrees Fahrenheit and a wind speed of 15

mph creates a wind chill temperature of -19 F. Under these conditions, frostbite can occur in just 30 minutes.

- o Frostnip is an early warning sign of frostbite. The skin may feel numb or tingly or appear red (on lighter skin).

- o To prevent frostbite, check that mittens and socks are dry and warm. Frostbite occurs mostly on fingers, toes, ears, noses, and cheeks. The affected area becomes very cold, firm, and, depending on the color of the skin, turns white, yellowish-gray, or gray.

- o Even though it's cold outside, it's important to use sunscreen and stay hydrated. Children are more likely than adults to become dehydrated.

Staying Safe Indoors and in Vehicles

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, including furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, and portable space heaters.
- Set up a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Vent all fuel-burning equipment to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Install and maintain CO alarms. Keep alarms at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances.
- If you need to warm up your vehicle, remove it from the garage as soon as you start it to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. Don't leave a vehicle running inside a garage.
- If vehicles are parked outside, check to make sure the tailpipe is not blocked with snow, which can also cause problems with CO.



Photo courtesy of mpa.org

Sleeping Safely in Any Season

- Keep babies' cribs free of stuffed animals and blankets. A firm mattress covered with a tight-fitting crib sheet is all that an infant needs to sleep safely.
- If you are worried about keeping babies warm, dress them in a wearable blanket, also known as a sleep sack.

Infection Control

- Cold weather does not cause colds or flu. However, viruses that cause a cold and the flu are more common in the winter when children spend more time indoors.
- Keeping everyone's hands clean is one of the most important ways to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash hands with soap and

clean running water and rub them together for at least 20 seconds.

- Teach children to cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve or elbow, not their hands. Adults should model this behavior.
- Review program policies on handwashing; cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting; and excluding children and caregivers who are sick.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that all children 6 months and older receive the seasonal flu vaccine every year. All early care and education program staff should also get vaccinated for the flu.

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J.O.Y Baltimore: A Local Resource for Homeless, Vulnerable Youth

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Lonnie Walker, founder and CEO of J.O.Y Baltimore, was inspired to act and establish the nonprofit in 2015 after experiencing homelessness himself. Walker remains committed to leading a mission that supports runaway, homeless, LGBTQIA+, and displaced youth in Baltimore, assists them with reconnecting with their families and enables them to access essential resources.

“The organization’s goal is to create opportunities for these individuals to thrive while fostering stronger family connections and community ties,” said Walker.

Outreach methods to connect with youth have included street outreach in parks; libraries; transit stations; community events; hotlines; social media engagement; schools; and other community partners.

“While referrals from trusted organizations like schools or healthcare providers are helpful, they’re not required. We’re committed to meeting youth wherever they are,” Walker added.

The grassroots initiative is also dedicated to strengthening low-income Baltimore City families.

“J.O.Y Baltimore provides a range of services, including outreach, job readiness training, connections to housing resources, and more, all aimed at empowering youth and fostering community well-being,” Walker stated.

Youth can access J.O.Y Baltimore Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. J.O.Y Baltimore’s drop-in center and safe space are located at 2116 Charles Street, 1st floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21218. Alternatively, more information can be obtained by emailing Walker at Lwalker@joybaltimore.org, or by calling 443-388-7906.

Loving Arms 2.0, another resource aimed at helping vulnerable young Marylanders is in development. Loving Arms 2.0 will be the rebirth of the original Loving Arms program from 2009 under the leadership of Cindy Williams in a collaborative partnership with J.O.Y Baltimore. J.O.Y Baltimore will be the program coordinator, ensuring seamless access to Loving Arms 2.0. Unaccompanied minors ages 13 through 17 will be housed. To access Loving Arms 2.0, youth must be aged 13 and 24.

J.O.Y Baltimore has been connecting homeless youth and those at risk of homelessness to essential resources and support until the greatly anticipated February 2025 launch of Loving Arms 2.0. Basic necessities such as meals; clothing; toiletries; life skills training in areas such as financial literacy and personal care; educational support, including GED programs and college preparation; job readiness training and employment connections; mental health resources and counseling; and comprehensive plans for achieving long-term stability will be provided.

Edward Opher, 26, recalls utilizing the original Loving Arms program in 2014 during a challenging time in his life.

“At the time, I needed everything from shelter and safety to emotional and mental health support. I was around 14 or 15 years old. I also needed educational support, life skills training, and guidance to navigate the challenges I was facing. Programs like Loving Arms provided me with the foundation I needed to start rebuilding my life,” Opher said.

Walker further explained that Loving Arms 2.0 is prepared to house eight to 10 youths in a single location, but the exact number may vary.

“Both boys and girls are served through Loving Arms 2.0. We also



Lonnie Walker, founder and CEO of J.O.Y Baltimore, presents a session on youth homelessness and resources at The Gathering, an annual conference hosted by the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund on November 13, 2024. Photo courtesy of Brian O’Doherty at O’Doherty Photo



Edward Opher utilized the original Loving Arms program in 2014. Photo: Edward Opher

accommodate non-binary or gender-diverse youth, ensuring all individuals feel welcome and supported. To maintain safety and comfort for all residents at Loving Arms 2.0, we provide separate sleeping areas for boys and girls, offer shared common spaces for group activities and meals, and have policies and training in place to ensure inclusivity and respect,” Walker also said.

Loving Arms and J.O.Y Baltimore rely on a mixture of government and private grants, individual donations, corporate partnerships, and community fundraisers. Walker further explained that the community plays a crucial role in helping homeless and displaced youth build brighter futures by donating time, money, in-kind donations, and other resources.

Ronda Allen-Bonner, a Baltimore, Maryland resident, has volunteered with J.O.Y Baltimore for eight years.

“I choose to support J.O.Y Baltimore because I see the incredible impact it has on vulnerable youth in our

community,” said Allen-Bronner. “J.O.Y Baltimore is a lifeline for youth in crisis.”

Opher added insight to share with homeless youth who need resources.

“My advice [to youth] would be to reach out and take the first step toward getting the support you deserve. You are not alone, and it’s okay to ask for help. Programs like J.O.Y Baltimore exist to support you and provide the resources you need to succeed. Whether it’s shelter, education, or emotional support, there are people who care and want to help you build a brighter future. Reach out and take that first step. You deserve it.”

To obtain more information regarding the launch of Loving Arms 2.0, please contact Cindy Williams by calling 443-415-1174, or by emailing Gods2use@aol.com. Donation items for the shelter are currently being collected.

Visit J.O.Y Baltimore’s website via www.joybaltimore.org.

Mother & Daughter Collab on Theatrical Project

Diana Wharton Sennaar and Mai Sennaar 'Carry On!'

By Ursula V. Battle

Diana Wharton Sennaar is an award-winning composer and a founding member of the internationally-renowned vocal ensemble, Sweet Honey in the Rock. Her noted career includes composing for the Broadway hit: "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf." Her daughter Mai Sennaar is an author whose debut novel "They Dream in Gold" was selected as a Best Book of July by TIME magazine.

Each a success in her own right, the mother and daughter collaborated on a theatrical work entitled "Carry On!" that puts their amazing talents 'center stage.' Wharton Sennaar is the composer and conceptualist of Carry On!, while Sennaar is its book writer.

Carry On! features interactive technology as it revisits the early days of COVID-19 for essential workers and elderly residents in a care facility. The piece takes audiences back to that moment of edgy anticipation and fear as they share their stories through song and AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology with humor, truth, and optimism - from the frontline care provider risking life to the pre-conditioned resident who becomes compromised.

"The play emanated out of some workshops that I did many, many years ago in New York," said Wharton Sennaar. "When I lived there, I was doing workshops in assisted living type situations throughout the boroughs of New York City. I was writing music back then, so some of the music is rooted very much in that."

She continued, "I needed a consistent playwright. I knew it would be great to have a playwright that I



Acclaimed composer Diana Wharton Sennaar performing in Carry On!
Courtesy photo

could really connect to who could understand what I was doing. When she was in her preteens, Mai started writing. She was that playwright that I always needed, and the rest is history."

Wharton Sennaar said she and her daughter's collaboration illustrates their mutual love and respect for each other's craft. Her daughter agreed.

"We have this friendship and a profound mutual respect that extends beyond our mother-daughter relationship," said Sennaar. "When I was a kid, I would privately listen to a lot of my mother's tapes of her music, and so I was developing a fan state with her work really early on. It's interesting to grow up with a mother who is a genius... who is extraordinarily gifted. I had admiration for her because she was my mother, but at the same time, this powerful artist."

She added, "When we first started to collaborate on my plays in New York, it was extremely exciting for me. We found a way to work together that works for us. It's a lovely dynamic that

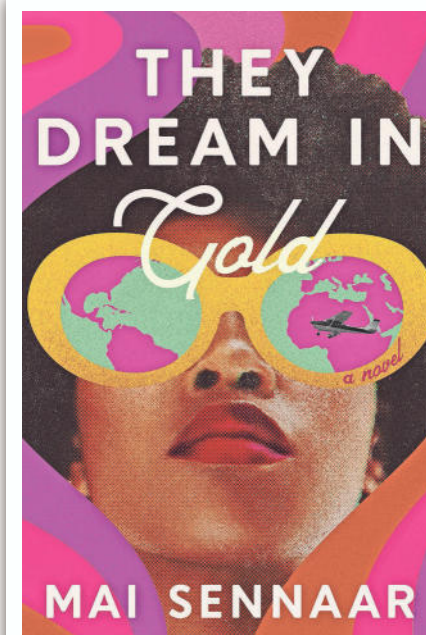


Mai Sennaar, author of debut novel "They Dream in Gold."
Courtesy photo

we have working together."

Wharton Sennaar's work as a composer has garnered her several prestigious awards which include the Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. Her songs have opened for the likes of Bill Withers. The Howard University graduate is the executive director of Piano for Youth123, a piano tutelage organization that reaches hundreds of students annually through its public programs and performances, summer camp and year-round lessons.

She received the Ruby Artist Grant, 2023 for Carry On!, which aims to highlight the importance of elders in society and the impact of family on their lives. The Sennaars have Broadway aspirations for the production. Last year, Ellika Music Company, Mai Writes Productions, William Kelly Consulting, and the



"They Dream in Gold" was selected as a Best Book of July by TIME magazine. Courtesy photo

Rubys Artist Grants presented the world premiere Baltimore showcase of Carry On! Victor Trent Cook, of the acclaimed theatrical production and concert series Three Mo' Tenors, was among those who attended the performance and gave it rave reviews.

Sennaar is a NYU Tisch alum. Her debut novel "They Dream in Gold" weaves together the story of a Black American woman's search for her Senegalese lover and the people who shaped the couple's lives. The novel is a Washington Post summer pick named Best Book of 2024 by Real Simple Magazine. Her stage play works have been presented at The Classical Theatre of Harlem, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, the National Black Theatre, NYU Goldberg, and other venues.

See CARRY ON, page 13

Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum Honors Harriet Tubman Through Museum Renaming

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Efforts to acknowledge the contributions of African Americans are intertwined with illuminating cultural preservation milestones. For example, The Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, located at 84 Franklin Street in Annapolis, Maryland, is the state of Maryland's official museum of African American heritage operated by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, initially named for Marylanders Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass, has played an important role in documenting, interpreting, and promoting Maryland's African American history and culture through exhibitions and programs. It opened its doors in 1984 and continues to expand through programming and an inclusive vision.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis, Maryland was renamed the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum (BDTM) in honor of Harriet Tubman on November 1, 2024. Tubman was the well-known "conductor" of the Underground Railroad; abolitionist; Civil War nurse; Union spy; civil rights activist; and humanitarian who self-liberated from enslavement on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the BDTM unveiled the new name of the state's museum on African American history and culture on Maryland's 160th Emancipation Day while honoring Tubman.

"The addition of Harriet Tubman's name to the museum signifies a pivotal step forward in our acknowledgment of the dynamic history of African American women in Maryland. Tubman's unparalleled courage and dedication to freedom resonates deeply

with our work to preserve and document African American history in the state, and her story must be told. We are proud to honor her alongside Banneker and Douglass," said Dr. Edwin T. Johnson, Chair of MCAAHC.

Governor Wes Moore signed bills HB390/ SB341 into law to actualize a historic change of the museum's name on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Support from Gov. Moore, legislators, officials, partners and staff from MCAAHC and the BDTM set the stage for the new name to take effect July 1, 2024 in a new fiscal year.

The renaming event entitled "Honoring Our Legacy. A New Chapter: Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum Renaming Ceremony" was held at Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum at the beginning of November.

"As the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture operates the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, working together on this historic renaming event was an extension of our shared missions. We united to uplift Black women's place in history by honoring the legacy of the museum's newest namesake, Harriet Tubman, and celebrating the commission's Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Awards while marking 160 years of emancipation in Maryland," said Chanel C. Johnson, Executive Director of MCAAHC and BDTM.

The late Nikki Giovanni, activist, author, and poet, provided the keynote address. Paulette Greene and Donna Dear; Carolyn Brooks; and Angela Crenshaw received Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Awards for embodying Tubman's spirit of activism, courage, and unwavering commitment to justice during the program.

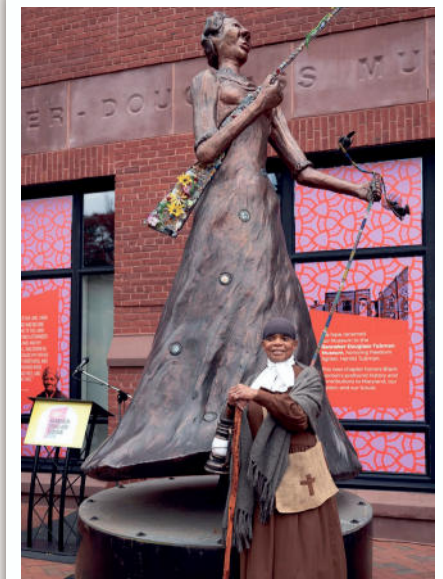
Chanel C. Johnson provided more insight into the museum's renaming.

"The initiative to rename the museum started in 2023 and was spearheaded



MCAAHC Chair Maya Davis (left) and BDTM Executive Director, Chanel C. Johnson

Photos: Christian Smooth



Janice Curtis Greene stands in front of a Harriet Tubman monumental sculpture at the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum's entrance.

by myself and then Chair of the commission, Dr. Edwin T. Johnson and Vice Chair Maya Davis, to reignite our commitment to inclusivity and to amplify Tubman's legacy in the state of Maryland and beyond."

Lesser-known facts about Tubman include how during the Civil War, she served as a spy, scout, nurse and cook for the Union Army in 1861 as part of the Massachusetts troops led by Major General Benjamin Butler at Fort Monroe in Virginia. Tubman was the only African American who joined the all-white force. Fort Monroe became flooded with fugitives who were regarded as "contrabands." Many of them arrived with families and small children. Tubman assisted them and treated wounded and sick African American soldiers.

Additionally, under Union Colonel James Montgomery's command, Tubman became the first woman to lead a major military operation in the United States on June 2, 1863.

"She and 150 African American Union soldiers rescued more than 700 slaves in the Combahee Ferry Raid during the Civil War," according to The National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Tubman became a one-star Brigadier

General during a 2024 Veterans Day ceremony commissioned by the Maryland National Guard on Monday, November 11, 2024. The historic posthumous commission was reinforced by Maryland Governor Wes Moore's visit to Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Maryland's Dorchester County to commemorate Veterans Day and to participate in ceremonies honoring veterans.

Black history is American history that offers chances to publicly raise awareness about the accomplishments and contributions of women and men who achieved great things despite oppression. Visiting Black history museums across the United States provides opportunities to pay tribute to leaders such as Tubman, Banneker and Douglass all year.

Learn more about BDTM via <https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov> and the upcoming Sacred Spaces Exhibition Opening Reception & Black History Month Celebration to be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/kvf4gdx>.

News Trailblazer Makes History

April Ryan Joins Black Press USA as Washington Bureau Chief and Senior White House Correspondent



April Ryan

Photo courtesy of nnpa.org

By Jason Roberts

(Washington, DC, January 17, 2025) – The Black Press is the trusted news and information source for millions of Americans, bringing on news trailblazer April Ryan. This is April Ryan's 6th presidency having covered five presidents as a White House Correspondent and Bureau Chief.

"April Ryan has exemplified the best of outstanding journalism for decades at the White House for news companies across the nation and world. We are so proud to announce that April Ryan will now be the Washington Bureau

Chief and Senior White House Correspondent for Black Press USA (www.BlackPressUSA.com). As the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) celebrates 2025, the 198th Year of the Black Press of America, we acknowledge the transformative contemporary benefit to the amplification of the strategic importance of the Black Press that will be rendered by the courage and professional effectiveness of April Ryan. April is the longest serving, Black tenured White House Correspondent in the history of the United States," emphasized

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO of the NNPA.

"I am going home to make history as the Washington Bureau Chief and Senior White House Correspondent for Black Press USA. This is the home of History Makers who were the first Black White House Correspondents, Harry McAlpin, Ethel Payne, and Alice Dunnigan," said Ryan. "January 13, 2025, marked my 28th year as a White House Correspondent, and I am thrilled to continue my journey at honoring the esteemed legacy of these iconic Black journalists."

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By Rosa Pryor

Hello everyone! Honey Child, it is cold outside. I know I don't need to remind you to dress warmly, with layers, heavy clothes and shoes. Stay indoors if you are able to. The sun will eventually come out and melt all the snow and bring the temperature up a little bit. Those of you who have to go out to go to work, I will say a prayer for you. Then again, if you are like my daughter, who is enjoying every minute that you are out in the snow and cold with a smile on your face, God bless you.

Now, my dear friends, I am going to talk about some of my musician children, who will be coming back home to perform for us next week, right here in Baltimore. Yes, my friends, some of Baltimore's greatest musicians, and I am going to give you a little background of each starting with one of my favorite musician sons, Dennis Chambers, who is an all-American drummer who has recorded and performed all over the world with hundreds of musicians including with John Scofield; George Duke; Brecker Brothers; Santana; Parliament/Funkadelic; John McLaughlin; Niacin; Mike Stern; CAB; and Greg Howe, just to name a few. Despite a lack of formal training, Dennis has become well-known among drummers for his technique and speed. He is particularly regarded for his ability to play "in the pocket" but can also stretch very far out of the pocket, which is also a hallmark of his technique.

Then there is another one of Baltimore's greatest, Gary Grainger who is a self-taught jazz fusion bassist from Baltimore. Gary joined the group Pockets in the 1970s, a protégé-group

Some of Baltimore's Greatest Musicians Perform at Keystone Korner



Greg Hatz, a member of the ORGANization will be performing at Keystone Korner Baltimore Restaurant & Bar on 1350 Lancaster Street in Baltimore on Thursday, January 23. For more information, call 410-946-6726.

with a distribution deal at American Recording Company (ARC), a boutique label of Earth, Wind, & Fire. He recorded and toured with the John Scofield Band, which included his Baltimore buddy, session drummer, Dennis Chambers. Another unique thing about Gary is that he comes from a family of musicians; all of his brothers are well-established musicians.

Another member of this unique band is Leni Stern, who was named one of the "50 Most Sensational Female Guitarists of All Time" in the Guitar Player Magazine's 50th Anniversary issue in 2017, with the publication aptly dubbing her "a genre-defying adventure." Leni's example shines beyond just prowess on her instrument, with the pursuit of her career spanning more than four decades according to Keystone Korner owner, Todd Barkan. I've only seen her a couple of times. I like her a lot. Added to this unique band is Bob Franceschini, known for his work with guitarist Mike Stern. They are still touring the globe together. He has recorded on Stern's last five Grammy-nominated CDs and two



The Mike Stern Band with some of Baltimore's own, Dennis Chambers on drums, Gary Grainger on bass, Leni Stern on guitar and Bob Franceschini on Saxophone will be performing at Keystone Korner Restaurant & Bar, located at 1350 Lancaster Street on Friday, January 31, starting at 6 p.m.

critically acclaimed DVDs.

Now, the leader of this unique group is Mike Stern, one of the great jazz guitarists of his generation, Mike Stern has the unique ability to play with the finesse and lyricism of Jim Hall, the driving swing of Wes Montgomery and the turbulent, over-driven (and my ex-husband) Jimi Hendrix. Growing up in the Washington, D.C. area, Stern revered all three of those guitar immortals, along with such potent blues guitarists as Albert and B.B. King. Aspects of those seminal influences can be heard in his playing on the 18 recordings he has released as a leader or in his acclaimed sideman work for Miles Davis, Billy Cobham, the Becker Brothers, Jaco Pastorius, Steps Ahead, David Sanborn, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Joe Henderson and the All-Star Four Generations of Miles Band. So, as you see, this is not a "BS" group. I think I am going to cover this one, and I am planning to be there.

Now my dear friends, all of these show-stopper musicians can be seen at the Keystone Korner Baltimore



Songbird will be performing at Roxy Hall and Bistro, located 6139 Ridge Avenue in Philadelphia, Pa. on Saturday, January 25 from 5-10 p.m. along with other acts such as Shanell Watson, Pamela Renee Smith and comedian Coby Jack. For ticket information, call 267-481-6764.



Crosswind will be performing at Who Know's Restaurant and Lounge, 2101 Maryland Avenue on Friday, January 24 from 8-10 p.m. Free admission.

Restaurant and Bar, located at 1350 Lancaster Street on Friday, January 31, at 7 p.m. For more information, call 410-946-6726.

Well, my dear friends, I am out of space, I have to go, but if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**

Carry On!

Continued from page 9

“They Dream In Gold” can be purchased at bookstores everywhere along with Amazon and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Last month, she discussed her book at the launch of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum’s new book club in Baltimore.

“As I journey through life, collaborations with my mother are helping me journey and grow beyond the work itself,” said Sennaar. “They speak to me in a very spiritual way. They’re things that I need and will use as I continue to become myself. So, it’s deeply nourishing and affirming because my mother is also a mentor of mine as an artist, and I’m just starting out. So, for me, collaborating with my mother feels like this infinite kind of wellspring of inspiration, safety, support, and possibility.”

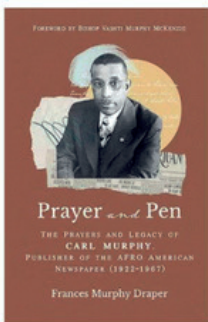
For more information, visit <https://www.ellikamusic.com/diana-wharton-sennaar.html> and maiwrites.com.



Composer Diana Wharton is surrounded by (left to right) Broadway star Victor Trent Cook; Alkebulan Sennaar, Carry On! Showcase Coordinator; Jaylin Jennings, Soprano; Shalanda Hansboro, Soprano; and Derrick Thompson, Musical Director. Photos: Ursula Battle



Victor Trent Cook of Three Mo’ Tenors traveled to Baltimore to attend a performance of Carry On!



Prayer and Pen: The Prayers and Legacy of Carl Murphy, Publisher of the AFRO-American Newspapers (1922-1967) Hardcover – January 7, 2025
by Dr. Frances Murphy Draper (Author), Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie (Foreword)

In times of struggle, chaos, and trial, we will be tempted to think that God’s goodness is not present. But prayer was the weapon of choice of Carl Murphy, the acclaimed publisher of the AFRO-American newspaper.

And knowing the power behind his pen, Murphy often poured every thought and emotion into the prayers shared with family, friends, the community, and his newspaper.

In this collection lovingly curated by Carl’s granddaughter and current AFRO publisher Frances Murphy Draper, travel back in time and journey through more than 50 original prayers from this cultural hero and pioneer. With each reading, reflect on Murphy’s authentic conversations with God and the perseverance and strength expressed by many as they were called to navigate Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement, the Great Depression, two world wars, and other tumultuous, defining moments in United States history.

Pause with these powerful words from Carl Murphy, and see how his remarkable legacy as a faith-filled author and businessman is defined by the solace and strength found in consistent prayer.

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Don't Only Blame Mark Andrews for Ravens Loss

By Tyler Hamilton

What once was a promising season came to a screeching halt on Sunday for the Baltimore Ravens. The 27-25 Divisional playoff loss to the Buffalo Bills at Highmark Stadium last Sunday, January 19, left much to be desired. The Ravens roared back late in the fourth quarter and had a chance to tie it up until Lamar Jackson's pass was dropped by tight end Mark Andrews on the two-point conversion attempt.

It's easy to blame Andrews for the disappointing loss, but mistakes across the board cost the Ravens.

"It's a team effort. It's not on [Mark Andrews]," running back Derrick Henry said. "We're all in this together. He's a warrior, and there's a lot to be proud about from this season [for] us as a group. We always [are] going [to] back him."

The Ravens moved the ball well. Their 416 yards of total offense far outweighed Buffalo's 273. The three turnovers proved to be the major problem, which is uncharacteristic for Baltimore who was averaging a stingy 0.8 per game.

"It was uncharacteristic to have turnovers like that. There were opportunities for us to not have those, but we had them," Ravens head coach John Harbaugh said. "So, you try to bounce back from them. That's what you try to do in the course of the game. You can't take them back. Once they happen, they happen."

"You never want to have turnovers. It gives the other team momentum. We had three [turnovers] today; that hurt us. We fought back. It just wasn't enough," Henry said.

Lamar Jackson had only thrown four interceptions during the regular season. He was picked off once by the



Mark Andrews

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Bills when he was rushed into making a throw early in the game. The Bills were able to convert the turnover into points. Jackson had a fumble in the game as well that resulted in points for Buffalo.

The Ravens were driving for what could have been the go-ahead score in the fourth quarter when another turnover hurt them. Jackson found Andrews for a 16-yard gain on 2nd & 11. Bills linebacker Terrel Bernard punched the ball out as Andrews fought for extra yards. Buffalo recovered it and got a field goal making the score 27-19.

Things got worse for Andrews on the final drive for the Ravens. Andrews is one of the Ravens main targets for red zone attempts. Offensive coordinator Todd Monken dialed up a play he's called many times before that has Andrews releasing to the flat. It's normally an easy score. But Andrews was unable to haul in the pass as he fell to the ground.

"There's nobody that has more heart and cares more or fights more than Mark. We wouldn't be here without Mark Andrews," Harbaugh said.

The hurt will stick with the Ravens

over the offseason. Seeing things come to an end like that will have to serve as motivation for the Ravens to fight back harder next season. The weight may not feel as heavy as it does on Andrews but Harbaugh believes his star tight end will bounce back.

"Mark will handle it fantastic like he always does, because he's a high-character person, he's a tough person, and he's a good person," Harbaugh said. "I'm proud of him just like I'm proud of all the guys."

Black DI College Athletes Must Submit Claims for Proposed \$2.8B NIL Settlement By 1/31/25

By Bradford Edwards LLP

Black athletes have been essential in building Division I basketball and football into a multi-billion-dollar industry. The NCAA is on the brink of settling two cases for approximately \$2.8 billion in connection with certain antitrust claims involving name, image, and likeness. Due to limited advertising specifically to Black audiences, the settlement threatens to leave some deserving Black athletes with nothing. **The estimated average payment for each football and men's basketball player is \$91,000, up to \$280,000.**

If you are, or know, a Black college athlete who played Division I sports, including basketball or football between 2016 and 2024, the athlete must register their claim either online or by mail by Jan. 31, 2025, to help ensure the correct recovery. Football and basketball athletes from Power 5 schools and Notre Dame on full scholarship will only need to update their contact information on the website and **select their method of payment.** They only need to file a claim form if they believe some of their information is inaccurate **and to select their method of payment. All other Division I athletes must complete a claim form by Jan. 31, 2025, in order to receive a payment.**

You can register your claims for both cases online at www.collegeathletecompensation.com.

And this claims website contains a detailed description of the proposed settlements, including copies of certain court orders and submissions by the parties to the case. The opt-out date is also Jan. 31, 2025.

According to the claims website, the following tasks are needed. Please login with your Claim ID and PIN. As an alternative, you can also login using your NCAA Eligibility Center ID. If for any reason, you are unable to login with your NCAA Eligibility ID number or your Claim ID and PIN, then select "No" when asked "Do you have a Claim ID and PIN, or a NCAA Eligibility Center ID?" and submit your claim form **by typing "Unknown" in the NCAA Eligibility Center ID box.** Or you can contact admin@collegeathletecompensation.com to request your Claim ID and PIN, or your NCAA Eligibility Center ID. However, if you do not have the time, consider completing your claim form by answering "No" and submitting your claim form by Jan. 31, 2025. (Without a Claim ID and PIN or NCAA Eligibility ID number the website will not give you an estimate of your payment. You may still want to complete the claim forms so as to preserve your right to any correct or eligible payment. Including by selecting a method of payment.)

You can also submit claim forms by printing them and mailing them to the Settlement Administrator (address below) with a postmark of no later than Jan. 31, 2025. You can access printable versions at [ncco_poc_web_house_250115.pdf](#) and [ncco_poc_web_hubbard_250115.pdf](#).

Answers to frequently asked questions are located at

<https://collegeathletecompensation.com/house-frequently-asked-questions.aspx>.

If you have any questions about the claims process, please contact the



claims administrator, **but your claim form must be submitted by Jan. 31, 2025.**

College Athlete Compensation Settlement Settlement Administrator
P.O. Box 301134

Los Angeles, CA 90030-1134 Phone:
1 (877) 514-1777

Email: admin@collegeathletecompensation.com

Bradford Edwards LLP is a Black-owned law firm based in New York and Los Angeles. The firm specializes in corporate litigation and is a member of the National

Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms. We are distributing this press release as a public service so that Division I athletes who wish to participate in the proposed settlement may do so. This release does not contain legal advice. The court approved lawyers



representing the class of Division I athletes who are eligible for settlement payments are identified on the claims website identified above.

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