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Visit Baltimore's 4th Annual Baltimore CTE Food, Beverage, & Baking Competition



On April 8, 2025, the Baltimore Convention Center came alive with energy and anticipation as nearly 250 students from five Baltimore City Public Schools participated in the 4th Annual Baltimore CTE Food, Beverage, & Baking Competition. Forest Park High School was declared the winner. (L-r) Front Row: Mia Bloom, Senior Director of Government & Community Affairs/Executive Director Visit Baltimore Education & Training Foundation; Chef Sebastian Boynton; Esteban Escobar, Area Director of Purchase & Supply Chain, LEVY and cooking judge. 2nd Row: Cooking Judges Derrick Purcell, PCII, FPM, Culinary Director, Franciscan Center/Dignity Plates; Chef Rochelle Kennedy, Executive Sous Chef, Baltimore Convention Center; and Mya Bilal, Owner/Executive Chef, Codetta Bake Shop. (See article on page 8)

Photo credit: Mollye Miller Photography

MDOT Names New MAA CEO and Executive Director

By Demetrius Dillard

The Maryland Department of Transportation has appointed the new head of the Maryland Aviation Administration, the agency announced April 4, 2025.

MDOT Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld has named Shannetta R. Griffin, an accomplished aviation industry professional, as MAA's executive director and CEO. She replaces former MAA executive director and CEO Ricky Smith, who left in late February for a general manager role at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

In her new role, Griffin will oversee the management, operations and maintenance to ensure the safety of Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Thurgood Marshall Airport, perhaps the busiest airport in the state. She will also exercise oversight of Middle River's Martin State Airport and the state's regional aviation assistance program.

With more than 40 years of experience as a professional engineer in the aviation and aerospace industries, Wiedefeld expressed overwhelming confidence in the new MAA leader. Griffin began the new position on Monday, MDOT announced.

"I have full confidence in Shannetta to lead MAA and help grow BWI Marshall Airport, one of Maryland's most significant economic engines," Wiedefeld said. "Her proven leadership and commitment to promoting safety, fostering economic growth and providing premier customer service ensure BWI Marshall remains one of the top airports in the region."

Prior to the MAA, Griffin served as Associate Administrator of Airports for the Federal Aviation Administration from 2021 to 2025. In

that capacity, she led a team of more than 700 employees nationwide and administered national airport safety and standards, planning, engineering, federal compliance and financial assistance programs to provide complex solutions for more than 3,300 public-use airports across the country.

With the FAA, she led a team of more than 600 employees nationwide and managed an annual budget of \$3.35 billion. Griffin said she is excited to continue her career in the Baltimore region.

"I am pleased to join the Maryland Aviation Administration team as the Executive Director and CEO for BWI Marshall Airport and Martin State Airport," Griffin said.

"I am thankful to Governor Moore and Secretary Wiedefeld for the confidence they have entrusted in me to serve the citizens of Maryland and continue the success of the busiest airport in the Washington/Baltimore region. I will build upon relationships with our community and airline partners, and the very capable and dedicated staff to advance the airports as economic gateways to our region and the world."

Before joining the FAA, Griffin served in executive leadership roles for airport authorities in Indianapolis and Columbus, Ohio, where she was responsible for the management, engineering, planning, construction, environmental and supplier diversity program for multimillion capital and operating budgets.

Griffin also maximized revenue in real estate and land development, air service and cargo development, concession management and parking/ground transportation, increasing concession revenue growth and achieving record-breaking passenger growth, according to MDOT.



Shanetta Griffin has been named the new executive director and CEO of the Maryland Aviation Administration. Photo: Maryland Department of Transportation

The award-winning aviation executive has numerous accolades to her name, and received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Toledo. A mother of two, Griffin is also a member of the sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

BWI Marshall Airport generates a total economic impact of \$11.3 billion, MDOT said, as the airport and visitors produce and support more than 107,000 jobs throughout Maryland and the region. The airport offers nearly 300 daily nonstop departures to about 90 domestic and international destinations.

Martin State Airport, located at 701 Wilson Point Road, is a public-use

airport and is widely regarded as the "crown jewel" of Middle River. It primarily serves general aviation, including corporate, private, law enforcement and military aircraft, along with flight schools and other aviation-related services.

According to MDOT, Martin Airport creates and supports about 2,300 jobs throughout the region and is a federally designated reliever airport, helping to divert noncommercial air traffic from BWI.

This article was initially published in The Avenue News.



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Governor Moore Begins International Trade and Investment Mission to Promote Economic Growth and Workforce Development

TOKYO, JAPAN—Governor Wes Moore today began his first international trade and investment mission in Ogatayama, Japan. With representation from the Executive Office of the Governor; the Office of the Secretary of State; the Maryland Department of Commerce; the Maryland Department of Transportation; and the private sector, the Maryland delegation arrived at the Yamanashi Maglev Center on Saturday morning for a briefing and test ride of the world's fastest and most advanced super-conducting magnetic levitation train.

“As we embark on our first international trade mission, we’re focused both on industries and technology of the future, and where Maryland has unique advantages to compete and win,” said Gov. Moore. “Strong public transportation infrastructure is key to connecting Marylanders from where they live to where opportunity lies. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to experience this incredible technology in person and are excited to learn more about its potential.”

Maglev is a high-speed transportation technology that uses magnetic fields to lift and propel trains without direct contact with tracks. By eliminating friction, the trains travel more smoothly and much faster compared to traditional rail systems. Capable of producing speeds in excess of 370 miles per hour in some models, Maglev trains offer fast and efficient transportation.

Japan has long pioneered high-speed rail innovations like Maglev that influence global transportation. Central Japan Railways, Maglev’s operator, operates the world’s safest, busiest and most profitable high-speed railway. During rush hours, one of its

iconic “bullet trains” runs every four minutes, carrying more passengers than any other high-speed rail line in the world, with approximately 150 million riders per year.

“We are pleased that Governor Moore and the Maryland delegation had a chance to experience firsthand the tremendous economic development Japan has achieved by implementing its high-speed rail system. Riding the train at 311 miles per hour, one can clearly envision the transformational impact of the Maglev technology,” said Northeast Maglev Chair Wayne Rogers. “With the potential to create over 160,000 jobs, to reduce car traffic and air emissions, the Maglev train would place Baltimore square in the center of the dynamic Northeast Corridor. With a 15-minute trip from Baltimore to Washington and a 45-minute trip from Baltimore to New York, Maryland would lead an economic resurgence for the region.”

In Maryland, the Northeast Maglev and Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail project has engaged in promoting feasibility studies and technology. Japan has also promoted Maglev technology, partnering with The Northeast Maglev, a Delaware-based company, to introduce and promote Maglev to the rest of the country. In coordination with Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail, development and design of an envisioned Maglev rail system would first connect Washington, D.C. to Baltimore; the journey would take less than 15 minutes. The second phase would extend from Baltimore to New York City.

Following the Maglev ride, the delegation traveled for a cultural visit and tour of Mt. Fuji. Known in Japan as the “Queen of Mountains,” the site holds deep cultural, historic, and



Maryland Governor Wes Moore meeting Central Japan Railway Company's Chairman Kaneko and Northeast Maglev's Chairman Wayne Rogers at the Yamanashi Maglev Center in Japan.



Traveling at 311MPH, which will connect Washington DC to Baltimore in 15 minutes, Governor Wes Moore discusses the project and its opportunities with Northeast Maglev CEO Wayne Rogers, Central Japan Railway's Chairman Kaneko and Maryland's Secretary of State Susan Lee.

Photos courtesy of Office of Governor Wes Moore

religious significance for the people of Japan.

To finish the day, Governor Moore and the delegation received an investment and trade briefing from the U.S. Commercial Services, the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration's trade promotion arm. With operations in more than 75 countries through

U.S. embassies and consulates, the U.S. Commercial Service collaborates closely with other U.S. government agencies, state-level organizations, and private sector partners to promote U.S. exports—particularly for small and medium-sized businesses—by helping to navigate foreign markets, overcome trade barriers, and identify global business opportunities.

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Health

National Medical Association Tuberculosis Advisory

After declining for many years, the number of cases of tuberculosis in the U.S. has been on the rise since 2021. In 2024, 10,347 cases of TB were provisionally reported, up from 9,633 cases in 2023, and 8,332 in 2022.

TB is an airborne disease that mainly affects the lungs. The disease spreads when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. Individuals with active TB can transmit the bacteria to others, particularly in enclosed or crowded spaces.

People in low-income, rural and urban communities often face elevated risks due to factors such as limited access to health care, more crowded living conditions, and a greater prevalence of underlying health conditions that can weaken the immune system.

While antibiotics can treat tuberculosis, some forms of the bacteria no longer respond well to treatments. Without treatment, active TB disease can be fatal.

Recognizing Symptoms

Tuberculosis primarily affects the lungs. Common symptoms may include:

- Persistent cough lasting three weeks or longer
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood or sputum
- Fatigue or weakness
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Fever, chills or night sweats

If you or a family member experiences these symptoms—especially if you have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with TB—seek medical attention promptly.

Protecting Yourself and Your Community

To reduce the risk of TB infection:

- **Regular testing:** Individuals in high-risk groups—including those with compromised immune systems, close contacts of TB patients, and residents of congregate settings such as shelters or

STOP TB

Tuberculosis (TB) spreads through the air from one person to another.

- TB germs spread when a person with infectious TB disease **coughs, speaks, or sings.**
- TB germs usually **attack the lungs** but can also move to any part of the body.

TB germs can live in the body without making you sick.

This is called latent TB infection or inactive TB.

- TB germs can live in your body for years without causing symptoms. Without treatment, **inactive TB can develop into active TB disease and make you sick.**
- If you have inactive TB, you can take TB medicine to **prevent the development of active TB disease** even if you do not feel sick.

If your body cannot stop TB germs from growing, you develop active TB disease.

- You may **feel sick** and **spread TB germs** to your family, friends, and others around you.
- You need to **take and finish all your TB medicine** to help you feel better and prevent other people from getting sick.

Symptoms of active TB disease:

- Cough lasting 3+ weeks
- Coughing up blood or sputum (phlegm from deep inside the lungs)
- Chest pain
- Weakness or fatigue
- No appetite
- Weight loss
- Fever and/or chills
- Night sweats

Take and finish all of your TB medicine to kill TB germs and STOP TB!

Publication Number: 6474

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

correctional facilities—should consider routine TB screening.

- **Adequate ventilation:** Proper airflow in living and working spaces can reduce the concentration of airborne bacteria.
- **Respiratory hygiene:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing to minimize the spread of germs.
- **Prompt medical care:** Early detection and treatment of TB are vital. Completing the full treatment regimen helps ensure recovery and reduces the risk of transmission.

Latent Tuberculosis

TB can be latent or inactive, meaning the infection is present in the body without noticeable symptoms. For patients with inactive TB, treating it is the best way to protect them from getting sick with active TB disease. It is critical for those patients to complete the prescribed course of medication to prevent progression to active disease.

For more information, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or speak with your healthcare provider.

Create Legacy of Wealth Building, Make Financial Planning for Children a Priority

By Andrea Blackstone

Our relationships with money can reflect generational perspectives. Edmund H. Moore, PhD was inspired to link financial education with family teaching. Before learning about money independently, Moore was first enlightened about money because Lee Moore Sr., his fraternal grandfather, and George R. Moore Sr., his father, put the initial pieces in place for him to develop a healthy financial perspective.

“My grandfather served in World War I and purchased 40 acres, a mule, and a buckwagon after his service. While serving his country, he saved all the money needed to purchase the land and other items by using an imaginary smoking habit,” said Ohio-based Dr. Moore.

Dr. Moore explained the imaginary smoking habit concept. Since many fellow soldiers purchased cigarettes when they were paid, Lee imagined what he should save since he did not buy cigarettes. Lee’s wise investment paid off in the lives of his offspring. Dr. Moore shared that all of his grandparent’s children attended and graduated from college. Family land was sold after both grandparents died, since none of their children wanted to live in Eufaula, Alabama.

“He [My grandfather] left the 40 acres to his surviving children as a legacy wealth building block,” Dr. Moore added.

Dr. Moore, author of the personal finance book, “Financial Freedom: Doing Nothing Is An Option” <https://www.amazon.com/Financial-Freedom-Doing-Nothing-Option-ebook/dp/B0BKQX3L4Z> also educates the community about finance, and he believes in implementing financial planning for children.

Dr. Moore, a parent of two, shared a strategy that parents can implement to help pay or plan for college when their children are growing up.

“Invest in state 529 savings plans to fund your children’s education. The state 529 savings plans can now be used for K-12, college and other forms of post K-12 education. These plans usually offer a tax benefit to the parents. I have used those plans for my children,” he shared.

Dr. Moore further suggested that parents can use programs such as Kumon, an educational enrichment program to position their children to achieve better academic success. The retired Department of Defense civilian and retired engineer used the program to help his daughters. He explained that the program strives to position children to progress two grade levels in English and mathematics.

“Those who go through this program or equivalent have an advantage of knowing how to learn, achieve better test scores, and have more access to scholarships,” Dr. Moore stated.

Parents can begin to grow wealth for their minor children by putting money aside for their college or trade skill-based education. Trade skilled based careers may include plumbers, electricians and others.

“Another thing that parents can do, especially if a minor child earns income, is to invest those earnings into a ROTH IRA for their minor children,” Dr. Moore also said.



(L-r): Mackenzie Moore, Dr. Edmund Moore, and Madison Moore. Mackenzie and Madison are college students who benefited from their father, Dr. Moore’s financial planning to pay for their education. Photo: Barry Stiles Sr.

He proposed that parents should instruct their minor children about money and finances by exposing them to aspects of parental finance such as payment of bills; charitable giving; saving and investing money.

“Expose your children to financial professionals that one uses: attorneys, insurance agents, financial planners, and others,” Dr. Moore further suggested.

Getting started with exploring passive income streams that are not extremely complex or expensive to jumpstart can benefit children, families or individuals.

“Place money into Certificates of Deposit (CD) that pay, for example, 5% annually. If one invested \$5,000, their return on a one-year CD would be \$250. The value of a CD is typically stable over the term of the CD,” Dr. Moore stated.

He also believes in using the Rule of 72 in finance. The formula estimates how long it will take for an investment to double in value based on a fixed annual rate of return.



Dr. Edmund Moore, author of “Financial Freedom: Doing Nothing Is An Option” addresses the Sinclair College community about financial topics. Photo courtesy of Dr. Edmund Moore

Dr. Moore added, “It is possible to build up wealth by saving and investing your income over a long period of time based upon the Rule of 72. However, the community must be taught about the Rule of 72, the value of education (reading, writing, math through Algebra, and civics) and using critical thinking to earn and protect wealth.”

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as professional financial advice. We recommend consulting with a qualified financial professional before making any decisions based on the information provided. The author and publisher are not responsible for any errors, omissions, or actions taken based on the information in this article.

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Visit Baltimore's 4th Annual Baltimore CTE Food, Beverage, & Baking Competition



Forest Park High School students prep dishes in the kitchen prior to presenting them to the judges. Photos: Mollye Miller Photography



(L-r) Mia Bloom poses with Baltimore Industry Panelists Nijah Wright-Brown, Co-owner, Land of Kush; Monesha Phillips, Owner, Pandora's Box; Brandon Phillips, Owner, La Chow; Brian Dawson, To Baltimore with Love; and Aaron Dante, No Pix After Dark Podcast.

By Paris Brown

On April 8, 2025, the Baltimore Convention Center buzzed with excitement and anticipation as nearly 250 students from five Baltimore City Public Schools stepped onto the competition floor for the 4th Annual Baltimore CTE Food, Beverage, & Baking Competition. This event, now in its fourth year, was born from a continued effort to expose Baltimore City youth to a wide range of professional opportunities in the hospitality industry. Through a partnership with Visit Baltimore, Levy Restaurants, and the Baltimore Convention Center, the competition had grown into a highly anticipated work-based learning experience—one that promised hands-on training, mentorship, and the thrill of putting their culinary and hospitality skills to the test.

It was still early morning when buses pulled up to the Convention Center. Students from Forest Park High School, Carver Vocational-Technical High School, Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School (commonly known as Mervo), National Academy

Foundation (NAF), and Edmondson-Westside High School filed into the lobby, greeted by the friendly team from the Convention Center's Sales, Services, Operations, and IT Departments. These industry professionals had volunteered to share their personal career journeys, tips for success, and real-world experiences about working in a major events venue. It was a chance for the students to see beyond the classroom, ask questions, and broaden their understanding of Baltimore's vibrant hospitality sector.

Throughout the morning, students participating in the cooking competition headed straight into the kitchen. There, they were met by Chef Rochelle Kennedy, Executive Sous Chef of the Baltimore Convention Center, who showed the students around the kitchen. Besides Chef Rochelle Kennedy, other esteemed panel of cooking judges included: Esteban Escobar, Area Director of Purchase & Supply Chain for LEVY; Derrick Purcell, PCII, FPM, Culinary Director of the Franciscan Center/Dignity Plates; and Mya Bilal, owner and Executive Chef of Codetta Bake Shop. Each judge took time to



Breasia, from Carver, is being guided through the large Convention Center kitchen by Rochelle Kennedy, Executive Sous Chef, Baltimore Convention Center.

provide feedback to the students and encourage them to hone their skills. They all appreciated the importance of this event as support for the next generation, the incredible opportunity for students to learn the ropes of the industry firsthand and how seeing these students sharpen their skills in a real kitchen environment is proof of how valuable hands-on events can be. “They’re getting a taste of what our industry is really about, and we’re here to support and guide them,” said one of the judges.

Other participating students enjoyed industry panels that highlighted successful entrepreneurs and local business owners. Several panelists took the stage: Nijah Wright-Brown, Co-owner of Land of Kush; Monisha Phillips, owner of Pandora’s Box; Brandon Phillips, owner of La Chow; Brian Dawson from To Baltimore with Love; and Aaron Dante of the No Pix After Dark Podcast.

The panelists highlighted Baltimore’s dynamic food scene, the power of collaboration, and the importance of building strong professional networks. They also encouraged students to embrace creativity, remain curious, and explore their own city as tourists. With Baltimore’s neighborhoods offering so many hidden gems, the panelists stressed that it was essential to foster pride in local culture, particularly for those interested in opening their businesses someday.

This year’s competition brought an exciting new element: a table setting challenge for those students who were not cooking. The National Academy Foundation took away the award for the table setting competition.

By mid-afternoon, all the schools assembled as event organizers announced the winners. The National Academy Foundation’s students erupted in cheers upon hearing their name called for the table setting competition. On the cooking side, Forest Park High School was declared the winner of the cooking contest. The judges expressed their admiration for the students’ passion and skill, with Derrick Purcell



Forest Park High School takes home the trophy as the winner of the 4th Annual Baltimore CTE Food, Beverage, & Baking Competition.

remarking, “These students have shown that Baltimore’s culinary future is bright. Their enthusiasm, combined with the dedication of their mentors, is what makes this event so powerful.”

Mia Bloom, who had spent the day observing the incredible teamwork and creativity on display, says of the event, “This year’s Baltimore CTE Food Beverage and Baking Competition was a true success, with nearly 250 students representing five different Baltimore City Public Schools. This year, Forest Park High School won the cooking competition with a fusion menu that honored the diversity of the team, and the National Academy Foundation won the first table-setting competition, a new addition to the programming.

“This competition goes beyond the classroom, offering students a unique pathway to real-world experience and industry immersion. During the competition, students work directly with Levy in their kitchen, learning from the executive chef and talented team while networking with local culinary experts who provide exceptional hands-on training and mentorship. This direct exposure to hospitality operations, along with experiences like a tour of the Baltimore Convention Center and a panel discussion with local industry experts, ensures our



Forest Park High School, Carver (Carver Vocational-Technical High School) and Mervo (Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School) participated in the cooking competition.

students are connected to major area employers and prepared for successful careers within Baltimore’s dynamic tourism sector.”

Applause thundered through the hall, underscoring just how special this annual event had become. The 4th Annual Baltimore CTE Food, Beverage, & Baking Competition stood as a testament to collaboration, learning, and the city’s flourishing culinary scene. By day’s end, students walked away with a sense of pride, excitement, and renewed ambition, ready to pursue

their place in Baltimore’s ever-growing hospitality industry.



'Private William Cathay'

Remember Cathay Williams, the Only Known Female Buffalo Soldier

By Andrea Blackstone

In response to President Trump's Executive Orders and new policies <https://media.defense.gov/2025/Feb/27/2003652943/-1/-1/1/DIGITAL-CONTENT-REFRESH.PDF>, some content has already been taken offline or it may be republished due to compliance, including military information.

Although change is underway <https://www.army.mil/?sf9351265=1>, nestled within corners of the Internet, in archives, and in history books, reminders to independently keep reading about trailblazers who preceded us prevail. Cathay Williams, an African American woman who bravely enlisted in the U.S. Army while pretending to be a man during the Indian Wars, is one example of a pioneer who should escape our memories.

If you are unfamiliar with Williams, she was the first and only known female Buffalo Soldier, and she was the first documented Black woman to enlist in the U.S. Army. Buffalo soldiers were United States Army regiments composed of African American soldiers who served in the western United States from 1867 to 1896. Williams hid her gender and enlisted as a Buffalo Soldier at 17 years old.

"Despite the prohibition against women serving in the military, Williams enlisted in the U.S. Regular Army under the false name of "William Cathay" on November 15, 1866. She enlisted for a three-year engagement, passing herself off as a man. Williams was assigned to the 38th U.S. Infantry Regiment after she passed the cursory medical examination. Though this exam should have outed her as a woman, the Army did not require full medical exams at this time," according to the National Park Service. (<https://www.nps.gov/>

people.cwilliams.htm.)

Additional accounts reveal that Williams was born to a free man and an enslaved mother. She was a house slave at the Johnson plantation located near Jefferson City, Missouri. Union troops occupied Jefferson City in 1861 during the early stages of the Civil War. Enslaved captured people were regarded as contraband. Some of them became cooks, laundresses, or nurses in military support roles to serve the Union Army and free up the troops who were needed for battle. At that time, Williams served as an U.S. Army cook and a washerwoman while accompanying the infantry throughout the country.

However, Williams wanted to continue her military service, and she later enlisted in the U.S. Army voluntarily.

"Though over 400 women served in the Civil War posing as male soldiers, Williams was the first African American woman to enlist and the only documented woman to serve in the United States Army, while disguised as a man, during the Indian Wars. Williams is also the only known female Buffalo Soldier," National Park Service reported.

Military Times mentioned that if Williams' gender had been known, the revelation would have resulted in a court-martial, since it was illegal for her to be enlisted in the U.S. Army. (<https://www.militarytimes.com/military-honor/black-military-history/2018/02/07/this-ex-slave-pretended-to-be-a-man-and-served-in-the-army/>)

Eager to support herself in a time when post-war job opportunities for newly freed slaves were scarce, the unmarried, female ex-slave elected to join the U.S. Army. Williams miraculously escaped disciplinary measures. In time, Williams' truthful identity began to unfold because she



Cathay Williams, the first and only known female Buffalo Soldier, served in the 38th U.S. Infantry Regiment while disguising herself as a man named "William Cathay" in 1866.

Source: The Richard Allen Cultural Center & Museum

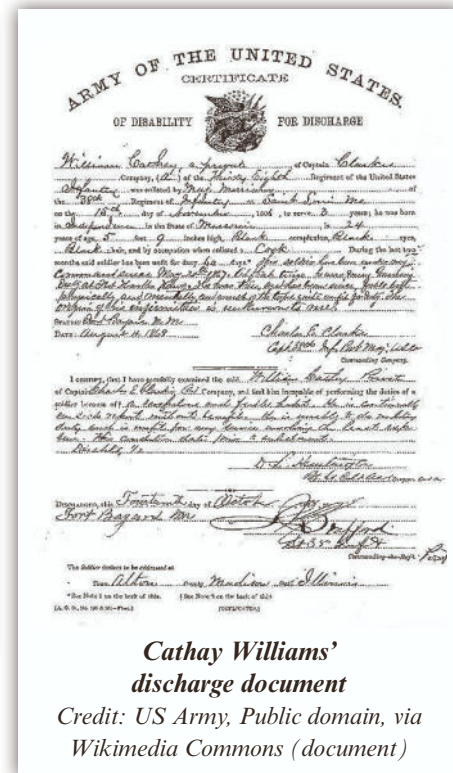
was hospitalized on more than one occasion. Contracting smallpox was one recorded health battle among others.

In 1867, a three-month illness plagued Williams. Her pay was docked accordingly. She was last admitted to the hospital in July of 1868. It was during that time that she was found to be a woman," the U.S. Army reported.

After her discharge, Williams resumed living as a woman. She worked in New Mexico and also moved to Colorado, where she worked as a laundress and merchant. Enduring years of hiking hundreds of miles through western terrain impacted the ambitious soldier's health.

The U.S. Army reported, "In 1891, at the age of about 41, she made a claim of disability with the Pension Bureau. It included deafness and neuralgia but was denied in February 1892 due to a lack of substantiation." (https://www.army.mil/article/73501/black_history_she_survived_under_the_guise_of_a_man)

To date, there is no verifiable picture of Williams, nor has the date of her



Cathay Williams' discharge document

Credit: US Army, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons (document)

death or a burial site been determined, noted the Women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. (<https://www.womenofthe6888th.org/monuments>)

However, a bronze bust of Cathay Williams featuring information about the only known female Buffalo Soldier with a modest rose garden, located at the Richard Allen Cultural Center & Museum was unveiled in Leavenworth, Kansas in 2016.

If history is important to you, remain motivated to learn about people of all backgrounds lifelong. Share information with others who want to know about your findings. Watch RosieLeetta "Lee" Reed portray Williams <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFUiFg4EBPw> in a presentation offered by the Fort Worth Public Library.

Save the Date: June 21, 2025

Documentary Premiere Celebrates Maryland's Legacy of African American Leadership and Juneteenth

Baltimore— The African American Department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is proud to present the official premiere of *Justice and Reconciliation: Henry Highland Garnet to Harvey Johnson*, a new historical documentary by local filmmaker and scholar Xavier Frink, in collaboration with co-producer Michael Nelson. The screening will take place on June 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Auditorium at the Enoch Pratt Central Library. A conversation with Frink and Nelson will follow the screening.

This powerful film delves into the lives and legacies of two pioneering Maryland figures—Henry Highland Garnet and Harvey Johnson—who

were at the forefront of pushing for justice under the law and a cultural reconciliation for African Americans.

Garnet, a leading figure in the Liberty Party and president of the African Civilization Society, also served as chaplain to Union soldiers on Riker's Island during the Civil War.

Johnson, a trailblazer in civil rights organizing, founded the Brotherhood of Liberty, a forerunner to the Niagara Movement and ultimately the NAACP. His formation of the Colored Baptist Convention of Maryland mirrored the organizational structure of the AME Church. Ultimately, he pushed for a theory in Texas, which highlights the importance of Juneteenth and the

need for pluralism in America.

Xavier Frink has a rich background in communications, public service, and nonprofit work, including roles with the Maryland Department of General Services, the National Council for the Social Studies, and the mentoring program Young Men On Tour. He is currently completing his Master's degree in History at Jackson State University, with this film serving as a visual extension of his academic thesis.

Event Details:

Title: *Justice and Reconciliation* –
Film Screening Date: June 21, 2025, 2:00-3:30 p.m. **Location:** Enoch Pratt Central Library in the Wheeler Auditorium **Admission:** Free and open to the public

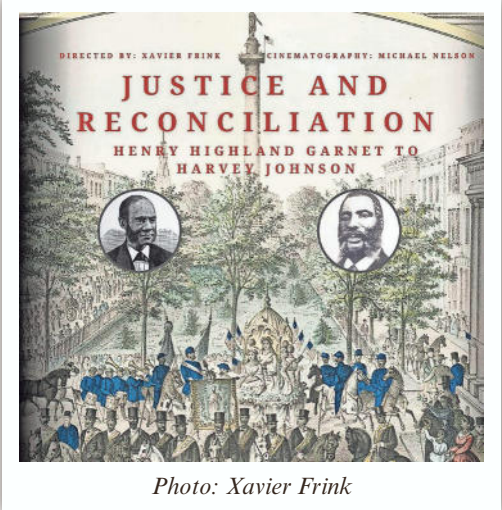


Photo: Xavier Frink

BECOME a community health care advocate!

Baltimore City Medical Society Foundation (BCMSF) is partnering with the Association of Black Cardiologists, and other local and national organizations to train motivated trusted community leaders and residents to provide peer education on changes in lifestyle and behaviors to improve overall health. We invite you to become a part of this innovative program to assist your neighbors.

If you are interested in becoming a community health advocate, email or call BCMSF – info@bcmsdocs.org or 410-625-0022

- Conduct educational sessions with religious congregations, neighborhood and community organizations, civic organizations and school, college and university students
- Participate in group activities organized by BCMSF
- Earn the distinction of being a member of BCMSF's community health advocate coalition



Rambling Rose



By Rosa Pryor

Hello everyone!

Here I am again, looking forward to the weather getting just a little bit warmer. The warmer it gets, the more opportunities we'll have for outdoor events. It won't be long now—just a couple more months! But in the meantime, I have some exciting and entertaining places for you to check out with me.

My dear friend and musical son, Lamont Battle of Jumpstreet Band, has been keeping me in the loop about a special project he's involved in. The Sanity Lounge is now presenting "The New Haven Lounge Music Series." The series kicked off last week and will continue every Tuesday through April and May. The Lounge is located at 1611 Guilford Avenue in Baltimore, and they've lined up an incredible roster of performers. I'll be there—will you?

Here's what's coming up:

Tuesday, April 22 – Ian Trusheim with his contemporary jazz band

Tuesday, April 29 – Ruben Montoya Band*, bringing you some soulful blues

Tuesday, May 13 – Joe Keyes Band*

Tuesday, May 20 – Fred Moss Band*

Tuesday, May 27 – Greg Hatza Organization* (my babies!)

Now, this next bit may not be about music, but it's very important local news for our Baltimore community.

You may remember the late, beloved Baltimore dentist, Dr. Lawrence Bell. His son, Lawrence Bell III, has now reopened his father's practice, formerly known as Lawrence Bell, Jr., DDS PA., under a new name—Bell Dental Clinic, Inc., located at 3326 Auchentoroly Terrace, Baltimore, Maryland. The clinic

The Sanity Lounge Presents the New Haven Lounge Music Series



Sanity Lounge presents The New Haven Lounge Music Series at 1611 Guilford Avenue in Baltimore. Ian Trusheim will be featured on Tuesday, April 22 and Ruben Montoya Band will be featured on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

has been a community cornerstone since 1979, and it is now a nonprofit dental facility dedicated to providing care to those in need. However, the building is over 100 years old and in desperate need of repairs. To continue offering affordable care, they need financial support to keep the clinic running as a nonprofit. They are open to the public and accepting new patients. For more information, call 443-629-8700—and tell them "Rambling Rose" sent you!

The Mill on North Food Hall

Exciting news! The Mill on North, located at 2636 W. North Avenue, is celebrating its grand opening from April 24–27. They'll be serving up delicious deli options, brunch, seafood, desserts, burgers, soul food, coffee, cocktails, and much more. Come out and support this vibrant new food hub—I'll see you there!

What's Fresh? The Baltimore Farmers' Market is Back!

It's open every Sunday from 7 a.m. to noon, located under the Jones Falls Expressway at Holliday and Saratoga Streets. This is one of my absolute favorite places to shop—especially for



One of Baltimore's Best Jazz Sessions, hosted by Clarence Ward III, happens every Monday from 7–10 p.m. at La Familia Sound Stage, 836 Guilford Avenue, Baltimore.



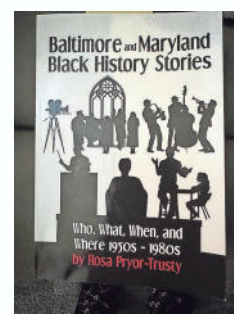
Ricky Shackelford, in partnership with B&G Tavern, presents a Comedy Show on Friday, April 19 at 14602 Livingston Road, Accokeek, Maryland 20607. It is hosted by Curtis Gaskins and features Ricky Shackelford and Ms. Linda. The doors will open at 7:30 p.m. Full menu and drinks available. For more information, call 202-316-1314.

fresh greens. I love the hustle and bustle, the music in the background, and the unique atmosphere. It just gets better every year, with more food vendors being added. Don't miss it!

In closing: Keep an eye out in the coming weeks—I'll be announcing book signings for my new book: "Baltimore & Maryland Black History Stories: Who, What, When, & Where 1950s–1980s."



The legendary Panama Band will be performing at Safari, 5625 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore, on Sunday, April 27 from 6–10 p.m. at a Tee Shirt Brian "Give Back Customer Appreciation Party." It is a "Casual All Black Affair." Free admission, entertainment, and parking. Music by DJ Mike Jones.



Cover of Rosa Pryor-Trusty's new book: "Baltimore & Maryland Black History Stories: Who, What, When & Where, 1950s–1980s."

It's filled with nearly 1,000 photos—you, your family, and your friends might just be in it! This book is just as special, if not more so, than my last two. Look for more details about signing dates and locations in The Baltimore Times by the end of this month or early

May. Feel free to give me a call at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com if you'd like more information.

I've run out of space for now, but remember—If you need me, you know how to find me.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

FREDDIE GRAY: **THE AFTERMATH**

**HOSTED BY THE SANDTOWN-
WINCHESTER COMMUNITY
COLLECTIVE**

**SUNDAY
APRIL 27, 2025**

3:00- 5:00 PM

**SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH
1375 N. STRICKER STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21217**



Ravens Mock Draft Roundup

By Tyler Hamilton

The 2025 NFL draft is right around the corner. Once again, the Baltimore Ravens will be picking in the bottom part of the first round after another playoff finish last season. It's part of the collateral damage that comes along with finishing with a good record.

The Ravens had a 12-5 record last season. That landed them with the 27th pick this year. The list of team needs includes: offensive line, safety, cornerback, edge rusher, wide receiver and inside linebacker.

Here's a roundup of first-round mock draft results for the Ravens this year:

The Pick: Malaki Starks, S, Georgia

Analyst: Mel Kiper Jr. - ESPN

Starks does a little bit of everything on the back end. He can step up into the box and stop the run. He can drop over the slot in coverage and he can patrol the center field at his closing speed. Baltimore was burned by big plays last season (58 opponent plays went for 20 or more yards, third most in the NFL). The Ravens tried a few different players at the safety spot next to Kyle Hamilton, and the midseason switch to Ar'Darius Washington helped. But Starks would be a real difference-maker.

This is a good roster with legit Super Bowl aspirations, and GM Eric DeCosta can't let chunk plays undo the team.

The Pick: Malaki Starks, S, Georgia

Analyst: Field Yates - ESPN

This is what the Ravens do in the draft. They patiently allow the board to come to them and then snag rock-solid prospects. Starks would check a box at free safety and represent good value at the same time. His instincts, versatility and ball skills would work well alongside Kyle Hamilton.

The Pick: Tyler Booker, IOL, Alabama

Analyst: Kyle Crabbs - 33rd Team

Baltimore could take several different approaches with their pick at No. 27, but this pairing feels a bit too "on-brand" to pass up. The Ravens signed Ronnie Stanley back on a new deal ahead of free agency and will look to replace Patrick Mekari on their line.

Booker gives Baltimore even more punch power up front to stress defensive spacing.

The Pick: Derrick Harmon, DT, Oregon

Analyst: Daniel Jeremiah - NFL Network

Harmon is ultra disruptive. He plays with outstanding effort and a motor that would be appreciated in Baltimore.

The Pick: Shavon Revel, CB, East Carolina

Analyst: Doug Farrar - Athlon Sports

Since we're on the subject of defensive players who would be top-15 prospects without injuries, how



Malaki Starks

Photo: Michael Hickey/Getty Images

about East Carolina's Shavon Revel, who deserves a bit of good karma. Revel turned down tons of NIL money to go to a bigger school last season, and was "rewarded" with a torn ACL three games in.

The strength of competition will be a question when it comes to Revel. The tape won't be a question at all. Isolate the traits from the opposition, and this is a starting NFL cornerback right now when he's healthy. In the 2023 season, Revel allowed 19 catches on 42 targets for 250 yards, 55 yards after the catch, one touchdown, one interception,

nine pass breakups, and an opponent passer rating of 62.6. Revel was on track for an even better season in 2024, giving up eight catches on 21 targets for 195 yards, 41 yards after the catch, one touchdown, two interceptions, two pass breakups, and an opponent passer rating of 48.8 before the injury happened.

The Ravens, who have young star Nate Wiggins and recently acquired veteran Chidobe Awuzie as their likely starting outside cornerbacks right now, would jump to make this pick. If not, they should.

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACT NO. 4140-Environmental Site Design Construction** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **May 21, 2025**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on Charm TV's cable channel (Channel 2 5 / 1 0 8 5 H D) ; charmtvbaltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **April 18, 2025** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02554 Drainage Structures, D02240 Erosion Control, D02620 Curbs, Gutters, Sidewalks, D02800 Landscaping, and F02200 Earthwork and Site Preparation, and G90128 Urban Stream Restoration**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 PASSCODE: 838520909# or Join on Microsoft Teams, Meeting ID: 218 383 905 649, PASSCODE: WqN84d on **May 1, 2025 at 2:00 PM**. Any prospective bidders desiring an explanation or interpretation of the requirements shall submit all questions via email to: Mr. Cherod Hicks at Cherod.Hicks@baltimorecity.gov

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and Mr. Rick Banks at RBanks@baltimorecity.gov Questions will be received until **May 8, 2025**, at 12:00 PM. Oral questions will not be entertained outside of the Pre-Bidding Information session. All questions and responses will be published as an Addendum to the solicitation on DPW's website under the referenced project title.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator Doreen.Diamond@baltimorecity.gov and dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Principal Items of work for this contract include, but not limited to, construction services for routine maintenance and repairs of environmental restoration projects and stormwater management best management practices including existing natural stream channel restoration projects, outfall repairs, stormwater management ponds, environmental site design, and emergency repairs of storm drains and ancillary sewer and waterline repair. On/Call services may include but may not be limited to excavating, grading, site work, as-built survey, repair, trash, and debris removal, installation of sediment and erosion control measures, landscaping, wetlands, seeding, invasive vegetation management, and other work as required.

This is a State Funded Project:

The MBE goal is **13%**
The WBE goal is **9%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Richard J. Luna
Interim Director
Department of Public Works

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-25011, ADA CURB RAMP CONSTRUCTION NORTH URGENT NEED (JOC)** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **MAY 21, 2025**, at 11:00 A.M. Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **APRIL 18, 2025**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled **"NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES"** to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors' Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 S. Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Categories required for bidding on this project are **D02620 (Curb, Gutter & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$2,000,000.01 to \$3,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **MAY 1,**

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2025, at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to john.malinowski@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are **5-in Concrete Sidewalk – 30000 SF; Survey, Evaluation, Sketches, & Stakeout for Curb Ramps – 120 EA; and Concrete Curb or Combination Curb, Gutter, Variable Width & Height – 4800 LF. The MBE Goal is 28%; The WBE Goal is 10%.** APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Board of Estimates

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dwane@btimes.com

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