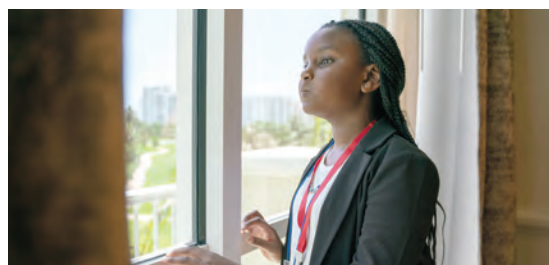




★ MIAMI, FLORIDA ★



Youth is no barrier for 9-year-old NABJ member. **PAGE 4**



A Cuban tradition lives in Miami-based cigar shop. **PAGE 6**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019 • NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS • www.nabjmonitor.com/2019

2020 CANDIDATES COME CALLING



SARAHBETH MANEY/NABJ MONITOR

Four contenders in the presidential primary—Booker, Buttigieg, Sanders and Weld—traveled to Miami to answer questions at NABJ. Above, U.S. presidential candidate Bernie Sanders talks with Craig Melvin of MSNBC; Alexi McCammond, political reporter for Axios and NABJ's 2019 Emerging Journalist of the Year; and Vann Newkirk, politics and policy writer for The Atlantic.

LOOKING AHEAD

NABJ, NAHJ place bets on Las Vegas

Joint convention at Caesars Palace in 2022

BY ELAIJAH GIBBS-JONES

NABJ Monitor

During a last-minute press conference at this year's convention on Thursday, NABJ President Sarah Glover and National Association Hispanic Journalists President Hugo Balta jointly announced that the 47th NABJ Convention & Career Fair would be hosted with NAHJ in Las Vegas.

The recently renovated Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino will be the host hotel of the joint convention.

During the announcement, Glover said she wanted to build a model that allows collaboration with NAHJ every two years moving forward. Currently the two organizations have committed to partnering for a joint convention in Washington D.C. next summer in 2020.

The organizations collaborated in hosting a 2016 convention in Washington, D.C. Both organizations were members of the now-defunct UNITY: Journalists of Color, which met from 1994 until April 2011, when NABJ's board voted to withdraw from UNITY over financial disputes.

Despite the troubled history with UNITY, partnering has been deemed the best move by Glover and Balta to share resources, foster relationships and do business together.

"We've got some significant synergy going here and collaboration that makes a whole lot of sense for both organizations, and we know

CONTINUED TO PAGE 10



Black News Channel slated for fall premiere

BY ASHLEA BROWN

NABJ Monitor

The Black News Channel will launch a 24-hour TV African-American news and content channel for African Americans this fall. Board chairman and former Rep. J.C. Watts Jr., the network's founder, said he has planned this channel since 2004.

Gary Wordlaw, vice president of news and programming at BNC, said Watts' "inspiration comes from years of coverage on the African-American community usually told from a point of negative bias."

The channel will differ from BET Network "by employing news journalists, and not just opinion hosts to deliver daily messages concerning black communities," he said. "There will be limited use of pundits and more use of experts from the more than 100 historically black colleges and universities from across the country."

BNC is a diverse television network open for anyone who wants to learn and see the many sides to the African-American community, Wordlaw said. There is not one type of news topic that will be covered through the network. BNC will cover the country, world and community news.

"At BNC, we believe all news is local," Wordlaw said. "The people and their experience across the country will drive coverage, not crime and violence."

BNC has already planned several weekly programs, including sports coverage that highlights teams and sports on the campuses of HBCUs. Additional programming will include:

"Being a Woman," a daily one-hour talk show with topics about women of all ages about childbirth, business, elders and politics.



MARTHA ASECIO-RHINE/NABJ MONITOR

Gary Wordlaw, vice president of news and programming, poses for a portrait at the Black News Channel booth at the NABJ annual Career Fair at the JW Marriott Turnberry on Wednesday.

"Today's Teen Talk," a program where family therapist Jane Marks interviews teens and families to help them navigate life through today's society.

"My America," a weekly one-hour talk show hosted by Watts to examine the global issues that affect African-American communities.

BNC will also launch internship and training programs next month for HBCU students. Georgia Dawkins, the director of HBCU Services, said there will be opportunities for young journalists who are participating in the program.

"As a graduate of Florida A&M University, I have personally experienced the value of the HBCU network," Dawkins said. "When I was a student at FAMU, I was hired by 'ABC News' to work at

'Good Morning America.' I later learned that it was a graduate from Howard University and Spelman College alumna who held the door open for me. I am honored to pay it forward in my new role with BNC."

Dawkins said there is a desire for BNC to be involved with helping student journalists succeed. BNC wants to have a career day and do college tours. A special part of BNC's partnership with HBCUs will be to train the next generation of storytellers and then hire them, Dawkins said.

The network wants to connect not only with college students but also with the whole African-American community as its target audience, Dawkins said. It will offer an HBCU database that will provide access to diverse academic experts, authors and specialists who will serve as the network's nightly on-air contributing analysts.

Where to find the stars on Friday

Ice Cube, American rapper, actor, producer and co-founder of the Big 3, 3-on-3 basketball league. **Jemele Hill**, chief correspondent for "The Undeclared" and ESPN. "Big 3 and Diversity" with Ice Cube, noon-2 p.m., AMC Aventura Theater.

Alfre Woodard, actress, producer and political activist. NABJ Hall of Fame Luncheon, noon-2 p.m., King Ballrooms 1-3.

Craig Melvin, anchor for "TODAY Show" and NBC News. NABJ Hall of Fame Luncheon, noon-2 p.m., King Ballrooms 1-3.

Hill Harper, actor and activist. W.E.B. DuBois Plenary + Live Stream, 3-5 p.m., Royal Ballroom 1.

Michael B. Jordan, actor. **Van Jones**, CNN host and political commentator. "Just Mercy" clips and conversation with Jordan, Jones and Bryan Stevenson. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Aventura Mall Level 3.

Marc Lamont Hill, academic, author, activist and TV personality. BET's Digital's "Black Coffee." 7-9 p.m., Banyan.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Ida B. Wells Society Investigative Reporting Workshop
10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Palmetto 8

Group photos

11 a.m., Cascata Pool
NABJ organizations, 30th anniversary of the NABJ Student Projects, Divine 9 and other groups will gather for photo shoots.

"17 BLOCKS"

Noon-2 p.m., Garden 2.
Advance screening of the award-winning documentary with conversation.

NABJ Hall of Fame Luncheon

Noon-2 p.m., King Ballrooms 1-3
Ticket required.

W.E.B. DuBois Plenary + LIVE STREAM

3-5 p.m., Royal Ballroom 1
Topic: Confronting diversity within newsrooms.

"Clemency"

4 p.m. screening, 5:50 p.m. Q&A, Royal Ballroom 3
A film about capital punishment starring Alfre Woodard.

Arts and Entertainment Reception

7:30-11 p.m., Royal Ballroom 3

Correction

In a story about the NABJ convention returning to Miami after 32 years, a graphic included a headline under 2019 that was not published that year. It should have read: President Donald Trump visited the cities of El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio in the aftermath of two mass shootings that occurred in the cities a day apart. Trump was met by both supporters and protesters at his arrival, with one sign reading "Racist Go Home," according to the Miami Herald.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

MARTHA ASECIO-RHINE
EBONY DUELL
SARAHBETH MANEY

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Star-studded event opens NABJ convention

Ne-Yo surprises while Glover honors those who stand out

BY JERELL RUSHIN
NABJ Monitor

The National Association of Black Journalists kicked off its largest convention ever with an opening ceremony matching the vibrant spirit of Miami. A live band, celebrity sightings and even an appearance from Star Wars' character Chewbakka created a festive celebration for this year's convention.

Appearances from retiring radio host Tom Joyner and Grammy award-winning artist Ne-Yo were among the night's highlights that, along with longtime NABJ partner Disney, were a part of an evening of entertainment, music and recognition of outstanding members.

Joyner, along with former Miami Herald world editor John Yearwood and former NABJ President Kathy Times, are serving as this year's honorary convention chairs.

More than 3,600 attendees shattered the previous record of 3,340 registrants who flocked to Atlanta in 2005. As annual attendance continues to rise, NABJ's outgoing president, Sarah Glover, said she is glad the organization is more about action rather than talking.

Organizers say that excitement for this year's convention has been elevated because of Miami's reputation as a tourist destination.

Apparently, the location has been attractive as well to sponsors, who have jumped at the opportunity to participate in this year's programming. In fact, more than 50 sponsored events will have been hosted during the convention by the end of Sunday, more than ever.

Further, NABJ's membership reached an all-time high in March, when 4,221 journalists held active memberships. The count was tal-



PHOTOS BY EBONY DUELL/NABJ MONITOR

TOP: Virgin Islands musicians Spectrum Band perform at the NABJ Convention opening ceremony in Miami. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Cheryl Brown Henderson of The Brown Foundation, left, and Sarah Glover, NABJ president, right, honor Eva D. Coleman, awarded NABJ 2019 Educator of the Year **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Disney Resorts, singer Ne-Yo surprised the crowd.



lied at 4,120 on July 31, the highest ever entering a convention.

But those weren't the only records recently broken by the organization. For the fourth straight time, NABJ will finish the year with a surplus, a first for the 44-year-old minority advocacy group. The scholarship fund increased to \$1.3

million, making it an endowment fund—also for the first time.

In a break from tradition, this year's opening ceremony also presented a number of awards to outstanding NABJ members and chapters. Usually, these individuals and chapters are recognized during the annual Salute to Excellence awards



on Saturday night.

Eva D. Coleman, the executive producer of the Frisco Independent School District's Frisco ISD-TV and 2019 NABJ Convention & Career Fair co-chair, was named the 2019 Educator of the Year. Also, Allana J. Barefield, a recent graduate of Xavier University, was

recognized as 2019 Student Journalist of the Year.

Among a pool of five other finalist chapters, the Winthrop University Association of Black Journalists was recognized as the 2019 Student Chapter of the Year. The award for 2019 Professional Chapter of the Year yielded a tie between the Rochester Association of Black Journalists and the San Diego Association of Black Journalists over a pool that included three other chapters.

In a stunning culmination of the ceremony, Disney stars Ne-Yo and JD McCrary appeared with Anthony Juba Richardson to promote the Disney Dreamers Academy. Richardson, an Orlando native who was a 2019 participant of the program, was among 100 teens selected to attend a four-day mentoring experience at Walt Disney World.

Finally, the cast from Disney's musical "The Lion King" closed the ceremony with a vibrant performance of "The Circle of Life."

Miami conference sets a new record

2019 meet-up draws 3,600, beating Atlanta

BY CIERRA IVEY

NABJ Monitor

NABJ's membership flocked to Florida, breaking records at this convention in Miami.

More than 3,600 journalists have registered for the convention, tipping over the record registered in Atlanta in 2005.

"It shows the level of interest and the value that people are placing on NABJ for training, getting jobs, getting story ideas and getting technical skills," said Drew Berry, NABJ's executive director.

Berry, who released numbers during Tuesday's NABJ business meeting, said, 3,521 individuals had registered for the conference as of Sunday, but the number has in-

creased since then.

"We're alive and thriving," Berry said. "Membership is growing. The attendance is growing. The partners and partner participation is growing."

Minor computer glitches and a rainy week could have slowed the numbers, but members flocked to the convention to gain mentorship, employment and fellowship.

"This year is 80 percent work, work, work and get connected," said Re'Chelle Turner. "The other 20 percent is play, because it is Miami."

Turner, a reporter for KARK-TV in Little Rock, Arkansas, hopes to learn more and move her career forward.

"This year, I came to connect with mentors, connect with people, go to awesome workshops, and also get some feedback on my reel so I can try to move up to the next level," Turner said.

The largest conference comes with an issue of people congesting popular areas on the resort such as the on-site restaurant, Starbucks



PHOTOS BY EBONY DUELL/NABJ MONITOR

LEFT: Recruiters from journalism schools and media companies set up and prepare for the NABJ Career Fair on Tuesday. The career fair is until Friday. RIGHT: From left, Cody Herron, Tom Scali Jr. and Tom Scali Sr. work on setting up the structure for the NBC Universal booth on Tuesday.

and the bar area. On the first day of the convention, registration hit a glitch.

The scanning machines broke down, making participants unable to register for the conference or to get their badges.

"It was an IP address conflict," said Lawrence Givens, an on-site

technician for eShow. "It basically caused static on the lines."

Computer problems stopped 25 to 30 people from registering until the problem was fixed. Givens said.

Meanwhile, eager journalists are excited about the convention.

Travis Cummings, a weekend anchor and reporter for KEVN in

Rapid City, South Dakota, is looking to make the most out of his convention experience.

"My goals are definitely different," Cummings said. "Last year, I just got into my position. But now, this year, my contract is wrapping up. So my mindset is totally different coming to the conference."

Youngest TIME Magazine for Kids reporter stands tall

Tiana Sirmans is networking and making friends at NABJ conference

BY ALEXIS GRACE

NABJ Monitor

Tiana Sirmans knows a thing or two about chasing dreams.

The 9-year-old is the youngest journalist for "TIME Magazine for Kids" and a member of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists.

Sirmans said she began writing at 3 years old, starting with poems, scripts and books. She hopes to own her own publication one day, and she is looking forward to telling stories.

Tiana has received plenty of recognition from her peers and teach-



PHOTOS BY SARAHBETH MANEY/NABJ MONITOR

ers since her work was noticed in the third grade.

"They had this wall on the chalkboard and would hang up all of my

articles," said Tiana, who lives in Delaware.

She has been learning networking at the National Association of Black



LEFT: Tiana Sirmans, the youngest member of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, poses with her camera on Wednesday. ABOVE: Sirmans grabs business cards from her backpack.

Journalists Convention and Career Fair in Miami this week.

"I love meeting new people and doing new things, so this definitely gives me the opportunity to do something I love," Tiana said.

While she looks up to many journalists, Robin Roberts of "Good

"When you say you can and actually believe in yourself, then you can make your dreams come true." — Tiana Sirmans

Morning America" and Alicia Vitarelli of "ABC Action News in Philadelphia" are her favorites.

Her mother has even given her a task at this convention.

"I have to come back with a job," Tiana said with a laugh. She advises children like her to not be afraid of chasing their goals.

"When you say you can and actually believe in yourself, then you can make your dreams come true," Tiana said.

She dreams about becoming a journalist and a motivational speaker when she grows up. She has already started thinking about what she might say: "Keep believing and don't stop dreaming."



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ROLLING IN CUBAN CULTURE



SARAHBETH MANEY / NABJ MONITOR

Havana Classic Cigars in Miami keeps an old tradition alive



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Sofia Gonzalez, Mireya Angel and J. Hernandez, left to right, of Los Angeles, watch Roberto Eduardo, front, roll a cigar at Havana Classic Cigar in Miami. Owner Lazaro Quintana chomps a cigar in his shop. Veilma Perez prepares a tobacco leaf. The back-room holds a collection of 20-year-old cigars, while cigar-themed paintings hang on the wall.

44 at 44: Founders recall NABJ early days

Those who formed group risked their careers, futures

BY JERMAINE JOHNSON II
NABJ Monitor

Just under 44 years ago, 44 journalists risked their professional careers to establish the organization now known as the National Association of Black Journalists.

Founders Paul Brock, Joe Davidson and Allison Davis said they vividly remember their vision for the organization and the challenges that came with them.

Brock, who became NABJ's founding executive director, said in 1975 when 44 journalists shared a vision in Washington, D.C., it required courage to get involved.

"It was dangerous for people to come to the founding meeting. They were threatened with being fired if they came. Many were fired after they came," Brock said. "Editorials were written on several major newspapers that we should be fired, after we returned home, because starting such an organization was racist."

Despite the challenges, Davidson said that the late Chuck Stone, the group's first president, knew the power of unity.

"I remember him saying something like, black lawyers are organized, black dentists are organized, black doctors are organized," Davidson said, "and black journalists should be organized."

Davidson explained that back then, the founders felt the portrayal of Black America in the media was not accurate and often times negatively skewed.

"We felt strongly about the need for there to be fair and accurate coverage of the black community. That was a primary goal," Davidson said. "Also having much better representation for African Americans



EBONY DUELL/NABJ MONITOR

NABJ founders, from left, Sandra Long Weaver, Norma Wade, Sandra Dillard, Joe Davidson and members of the late founder Les Payne's family, daughter Tamara Payne and wife Violet Payne join each other on stage at the opening ceremony of the NABJ convention.

in the mainstream media was another essential goal."

Today, thousands of journalists are members of NABJ. Membership reached an all-time high in March of 4,221 active members, said the organization.

Further, the annual convention, local chapters and countless training programs across the nation provide career development and

networking opportunities that have actively been seen in and out of newsrooms.

Davis, the second youngest founder of NABJ, served on the board at the age of 22. Today, she said she hopes NABJ continues to enjoy a bright future.

"I think NABJ is extremely important for the future of journalism—primarily because we are a di-

"We felt strongly about the need for there to be fair and accurate coverage of the black community. That was a primary goal,"

- Joe Davidson,
founder

vided nation and our stories need to be told," Davis said.

"I want to be 80, 90, 100 years old. I want you all to wheel me out and I want you to wipe the spit off my lips," she said. "And I want to know that this organization has lived and sustained itself for as long as it has."



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that we are, future planning is another key to success," Glover said.

Said Balta about the partnership, "There's certainly a business element to this in working together that is a plus for both organizations."

According to NABJ's front office, a strategy to make its annual convention more affordable for students has been a part of the plan to ensure more students attend the convention in 2022.

NABJ Executive Director

Drew Barry has confirmed working with a number of airlines now to lower the price for students to travel to the convention.

Also, discussions of a deferred payment plan have also been confirmed to imitate how NAHJ completes its registration process.

The location for the NABJ convention and career fair in 2023 has not been released.

The NABJ board has been accepting proposals for additional conventions but no further decisions have been made at this time.



NAHJ President Hugo Balta joins NABJ President Sarah Glover to announce a joint convention for 2022 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

BOB BUTLER/NABJ MONITOR

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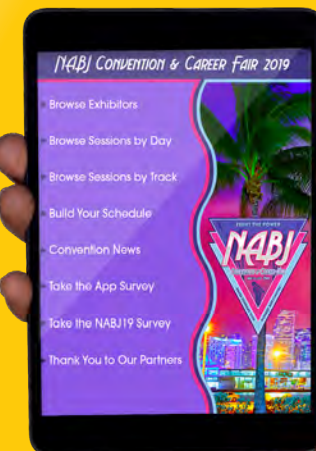
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TOP: Raphael Jean is a local Haitian artist who performs frequently at the Little Haiti Cultural Center Marketplace. **BOTTOM:** The neighborhood of Little Haiti is painted with murals that tell stories of its culture.

PHOTOS BY MICAH ALISE/NABJ MONITOR

Miami's Little Haiti offers a new world

BY MICAH BLEDSOE
NABJ Monitor

Little Haiti, a small neighborhood full of richness and culture, draws tourists to the authentic Haitian experience in Miami.

Once called the “Lemon City” in the late 1800s, it is about 15 miles away from the center of the NABJ Convention on the main strip at Northeast Second Avenue in Miami.

An influx of Haitians fled to South Florida during political turmoil in the early 1960s. They brought with them their culture, food, art and music.

Even today, as visitors and residents walk the colorful streets of Little Haiti, their eyes are greeted by brightly colored buildings with signs still written in Creole. Rhythmic beats waft out from speakers



at the Little Haiti Cultural Center, transporting visitors away from Miami-Dade County and into the nuances of Little Haiti.

A special part of Little Hai-

ti's charm is a number of vibrantly painted murals on the side of the neighborhood's oldest buildings. According to the Miami Tourism and Visitors Bureau, each mural

captures a small piece of Haiti's rich cultural history.

Raphael Jean, a local Haitian artist, said tourism plays a Little Haiti. The culture attracts people to the area with their “capacity to entertain people in any kind of way,” he said.

Jean said that the neighborhood reminds visitors of the island.

“It's the reflection of the motherland,” Jean said. “You have ra-ra here. You have African spirituality, a voodoo ceremony. You have church.”

1804, the year Haiti won its independence, has been written and painted into murals all over the neighborhood.

The neighborhood attracts international stars. The area has served as a backdrop for DJ Khaled's 2017 “Wild Thoughts” music video, featuring Rihanna and Bryson Tiller.

It's an important political stop

for presidential hopefuls. During the 2016 campaign, every major candidate made a stop there.

French photographer Morgan LeNoble previously visited the beaches on her first trip to Florida. She made sure she visited historic Little Haiti.

LeNoble became an admirer of a bookstore she heard about. The culture has always interested her, she said, especially because she loves dancing: “I love the moods of people, It's so entertaining.”

With her love of Haitian and Creole food, LeNoble said she had plans to visit the infamous Chef Creole, who owns several restaurants in South Florida.

“I would invite people to visit Little Haiti, not just Little Havana or South Beach, because it's a great place to see people,” LeNoble said. “And, the food is delicious.”

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