

THRIVING!

THE NEWSLETTER OF BLACK PR WIRE, INC.

December 2016

2016: The Year in Review

What an incredible year 2016 has been. As we enter into its last days, let's take a moment to look back and reflect on some of the highlights of the year!

SPORTS

Simone Biles won the hearts of the world and is the new women's gymnastics champion of all time during a spectacular showing in the Olympics in Rio, Brazil.

LeBron "King" James and the **Cleveland Cavaliers** helped to make you believe with the epic comeback win of the NBA Championship. A true testament of faith, hope and the spirit of believing in yourself and your abilities. What an immeasurable fete for the record books.

In Memory – Muhammad Ali - The silver-tongued boxer and civil rights champion who famously proclaimed himself "The Greatest" and then spent a lifetime living up to the billing died this year. He was 74. Muhammad Ali was without a doubt the greatest sportsman of a generation and a genuine American hero.

CELEBRITY/ENTERTAINMENT

Hamilton: An American Musical is a musical about the life of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, with music, lyrics, and book by Lin-Manuel Miranda. The show, inspired by the biography Alexander Hamilton by historian Ron Chernow, achieved both critical acclaim and box office success. It has taken America by storm and has won both Tony and Grammy awards.

In Memory – Tommy Ford - 'Martin' star Thomas Mikal Ford has passed away at age 52. The actor was reportedly

recovering from knee surgery when he suffered a ruptured aneurysm and fell into "a state of unconsciousness" while recovering in an Atlanta hospital.

Kevin Hart made history and became the highest paid comedian in 2016. Earning \$87.5 million, Hart surpassed top-earning joker Jerry Seinfeld who has been crowned Cash King of Comedy by Forbes since 2016. Hart's earnings also landed him at No. 6 in the Celebrity 100.

MUSIC

Beyonce – Self-proclaimed diva, Beyonce, debuted her visual album 'Lemonade' in epic HBO special. That same night, she released her 6th solo studio album also titled 'Lemonade.' The album became one of the most talked about in 2016.

In Memory – Prince - Legendary, iconic performer, Prince Rogers Nelson died at his Paisley Park residence 4/21 at the age of 57.

JOURNALISTS

In Memory – Gwen Ifill, one of the most prominent political journalists in the country, has died after a battle with cancer. She was 61. When she took the helm of Washington Week in Review in 1999, Ifill became the first African-American woman to host a major political TV talk show.

POLITICAL

President Barack Obama – Our nation will soon say "so long" to one of the most beloved leaders and prolific African-American figures of all time. His leadership and legacy will long be admired, loved and respected by hundreds of millions worldwide.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris made history during the 2016 election and became the first Black woman to become the U.S. Senator for California.

TRAVEL/HISTORICAL PLACES

The opening of the **Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture** took place in September. Hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world have experienced this new national treasure.

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania proudly stands as the oldest HBCU in the United States. Founded in 1837, this educational institution will be 180 years old in 2017. In the beginning, the school was known as the Institute for Colored Youth. Funding for Cheyney was provided by Richard Humphreys. Humphreys, a Quaker philanthropist, was born in the West Indies. After his arrival in Philadelphia in 1764, he was dismayed to see the struggles of African Americans as they lost out on jobs due to a lack of education. Humphreys dedicated one-tenth of his estate to the establishment of a school which would address this urgent need.

Your friends and colleagues at Black PR Wire wish you all the best for safe, happy and healthy New Year's celebration. See you in 2017.



Black PR Wire, Inc. is a premier news distribution service center that delivers to the very core and pulse of the Black community. The company holds a comprehensive listing of over 1,200 Black-owned

publications and media, as well as provides services to social service and grassroots organizations and influential leaders throughout the United States and the Caribbean. Plus, we provide our services in

English and Creole. To find out more about Black PR Wire, Inc., call us toll free at 1-877-BlackPR or visit the website at: WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM.

"There is POWER in the Wire... At Black PR Wire, we distribute the news our media can use!"

POWER PROFILER: LILICIA BAILEY

EXECUTIVE VP/CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER, BELK, INC.



shaping the culture and talent strategy.

Prior to joining Belk, Bailey worked with Cox Enterprises and its subsidiary, Manheim, for 10 years as Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer of Global People Strategies and Administration. Bailey has held various non-profit board leadership positions at Cobb Family Resources, Girl's Inc. and Communities in Schools of Georgia. She was a graduate of Leadership Atlanta Class of 2010.



Bailey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Spelman College and a Master of Arts in Human Resources Management from Keller Graduate School, and has a Presidential/Key Executive MBA from Pepperdine University.

HOLIDAY MOVIE MOMENTS

The holiday season is a great time to kick back, relax and watch some great movies. It's the perfect way to put you and your loved ones in the holiday spirit. Listed below are some black Christmas movies to possibly add to your "watch list" to help you enjoy holiday movie moments:



A Diva's Christmas Carol



The Best Man Holiday



Black Nativity



Call Me Claus



Christmas in Compton



Dear Secret Santa



Friday After Next



Holiday Heart

- Last Holiday
- The Perfect Gift
- Perfect Holiday
- The Preacher's Wife
- This Christmas
- Trading Places

Merry Christmas/Happy Kwanzaa!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This section is designed to keep you in the know and on the go. Check out some of the latest happenings throughout the country this month.

World AIDS Day 2016 Testing in the Park
12-1-16
Pensacola, FL
www.hivevolution.org



Maxwell & Mary J. Blige: King and Queen of Hearts Tour
12-2-16
Dallas, TX
www.ticketmaster.com

Motown & More: A Holiday Celebration
12-2-16
Carroll Arts Center
Westminster, MD



Art Beat Miami Celebrity Brunch
12-3-16
Miami, FL
www.artbeatmiami.com

Black Professional Men 25th Anniversary Winter Wonderland Ball
12-3-16
Baltimore, MD

Dave Koz Christmas Tour 2016, Featuring Jonathan Butler, Kenny Lattimore, and Valerie Simpson
12-3-16
Washington, DC
202-628-6161



100 Men in Black Christmas Concert
12-4-16
Durham, NC
919-544-6304
www.100meninblack.org

The Prince Experience
12-8-16
Dallas, TX
www.livenation.com

NAAM Soul Christmas: Black Santa Visit 12-11-16
Seattle, WA
www.naamnw.org

Charlie Wilson
12-16-16
Durant, OK
800-653-8000



The Hip Hop Nutcracker 2016
12-16-16
North Bethesda, MD
301-581-5100

The Smooth Holiday Groove Featuring Keith Sweat and Kem
12-17-16
Grand Prairie, TX
972-854-5050



Kwanzaa Celebration
12-30-16
Durham, NC
www.durhamnc.gov/1651/kwanzaa



OUR TEAM

Bernadette A. Morris
President/CEO
bmorris@blackprwire.com

Ricardo F. Reyes
AVP/Creative Director
rreyes@blackprwire.com

Tanisha Coleman
Marketing Manager
tcoleman@blackprwire.com

Simone Cook
Account Coordinator
scook@blackprwire.com

Teodoras Vitkauskas
Webmaster
tvitkauskas@blackprwire.com

Erica Brown
Graphic Designer
ebrown@blackprwire.com

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM

BPRW ALLIANCES

Black PR Wire has several alliances and strategic partnerships with wire services and national organizations. They include:



facebook.com/
BLACKPRWIRE
@BLACKPRWIRE