

# WE ARE ONE:

## THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN AND VICE-PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS

**By Edelia “Dr. Jay” Carthan**  
*Staff Writer*

President Biden was officially sworn in as the 46th president of the United States of America Wednesday, January 20, and Kamala Harris was sworn in as the 49th vice-president of the United States of America, becoming the first woman to occupy that seat. For the first time in our nation’s history, we have a second gentleman, the husband of Vice-President Harris, Douglas Emhoff.

In his inauguration speech, President Biden promises to be the president for all Americans. “Unity is the

path forward,” Biden said. “I will be a president for all Americans,” a different tone and a different story from the previous administration. “I will work just as hard for those who didn’t support me.”

Former President Donald J. Trump skipped the inauguration, becoming the first president since 1869 to skip the swearing-in of his successor breaking the 150 year tradition.

Vice-President Mike Pence was in attendance to ensure a peaceful transition and the end of an era – a week after terrorists disguised as Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol

January 6.

Trump, the only president to lose the popular vote twice and to be impeached twice, left the office after he pardoned 74 people and commuted the sentences of 70 others including his former chief strategist Steve Bannon, Lil. Wayne and Kwame Kilpatrick.

President Joe Biden and first Lady Jill Biden joined Vice-President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug, for a church service at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, January 20.

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# UNITY

## BIDEN TAKES THE HELM AS PRESIDENT: ‘DEMOCRACY HAS PREVAILED’

**By Jonathan Lemire**  
*Zeke Miller and Alexandra Jaffe*

Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States Wednesday, declaring that “democracy has prevailed” and summoning American resilience and unity to confront the deeply divided nation’s historic confluence of crises.

Biden took the oath at a U.S. Capitol that had been battered by an insurrectionist siege just two weeks earlier. On a cold Washington morning dotted with snow flurries, the quadrennial ceremony unfolded within a circle of security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid of crowds because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead, Biden gazed out over 200,000 American flags planted on the National Mall to symbolize those who could not attend in person.

“The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We’ve learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed,” Biden said. “This is America’s day. This is democracy’s day. A day in history and hope, of renewal and resolve.”

Biden never mentioned his predecessor, who defied tradition and left town ahead of the ceremony, but his speech was an implicit rebuke of Donald Trump. The new president denounced “lies told for power and for profit” and was blunt about the challenges

ahead.

Central among them: the surging virus that has claimed more than 400,000 lives in the United States, as well as economic strains and a national reckoning over race.

“We have much to do in this winter of peril, and significant possibilities. Much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to gain,” Biden said. “Few people in our nation’s history have been more challenged, or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we’re in now.”

Biden was eager to go big early, with an ambitious first 100 days including a push to speed up the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations to anxious Americans and pass a \$1.9 trillion economic relief package. On Day One, he planned a series of executive actions to roll back Trump administration initiatives and also planned to send an immigration proposal to Capitol Hill that would create an eight-year path to citizenship for immigrants living in the country illegally.

The absence of Biden’s predecessor from the inaugural ceremony underscored the national rift to be healed.

But a bipartisan trio of former presidents – Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama – were there to witness the ceremonial transfer of power. Trump, awaiting his second impeachment trial, was at his Florida

**Biden**  
*Continued on page 3*





# Geraldyn Terry: assistant vice president, top banker, financial counselor, economist

*Industrious, inspirational and commercial leader*

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob  
Contributing Writer

One challenge many people of African descent grapple with globally is the question of what they have done to advance human progress. What legacies, worthy of note, have they bequeathed to humanity, many critics occasionally ask.

That interrogation frequently arises sometimes in earnest and other occasions in jest. But whichever way it is perceived or framed, the matter crops up. However, despite the levity or seriousness of the question, it deserves to be addressed.

## Star professional: Banker and manager

One professional who heads a black financial establishment that partially answers the question is Geraldyn Terry of the Liberty Bank and Trust Company of Jackson, Mississippi. Liberty Bank is among the leading African-American institutions that have survived and succeeded in spite and despite challenges in the economically turbulent and even depressed city. Indeed, it has a cherished and admirable history of success in the area. Some observers pinpoint it with pride asserting that it is a success and continues to weather turbulent storms that bombard it from time to time.

## Outstanding men and women

The bank's accomplishment is to some degree predicated on certain outstanding men and women of education, enlightenment and encouragement. They have done their utmost to assure the bank's survival and ad-



Terry

vancement. Terry, assistant vice president, is one of those revered managers and achievers.

As manager, she oversees all the bank's operations internally and externally. Additionally, she leads the day-to-day efforts and input from clients, staff, investors, board members along with other peripheral and big time lenders and associates.

## Other responsibilities

A community leader, she also is an advocate for positive growth and change within the black community at large. She believes that the key to success is quality education and financial literacy.

## Success

She attributes her success to a strong and supportive family unit. Her mother, a stay-at-home mom, made education and academic achievement a

'must do' requirement to remain in the household. Terry also attributes her success to her faith, a devoted team of teachers, family members, civic and church involvement, at an early age.

## Challenges

However, she grapples with challenges. They include being a single mother and head of household while trying to manage a challenging career, and a passionate career that demands more than an eight hour day. This has led to many personal sacrifices.

## Philosophy of life

Terry's philosophy of life is anchored on the precept that the difference between a stepping stone and stumbling block is how you step.

## Religious affiliation

Her religious affiliation has matured from a specific church denomination to a personal relationship with the Most High God. It encompasses a devout spiritual relationship depending on faith in times of depression, fear, uncertainty and the need for divine guidance.

## Motto, mission, vision

Her motto is, "When you don't know what to do, stand, be still and listen."

Her mission is to allow wisdom and knowledge to ebb into the life of others so that they may become informed, enlightened and empowered; without graduating from the school of hard knocks.

Her vision is, "Education, education, education; education and learning that expands beyond basic academics.

A brilliant and determined strategist, she entered college at 17 and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Jackson State University with a B. S. in business finance. Further education includes numerous studies in other areas of the discipline.

## Future plans

Terry's future plans are to focus on health and wellness along with creating a successful financial contingency plan for self, daughter and grandchildren.

## Family

A firm champion of family and friends, she is the daughter of Cecil and Frankie Jean Terry. She is the oldest of seven siblings, consisting of four sisters and three brothers. The essence of her existence manifests itself in the form of a loving and caring daughter, Cortney and three amazing grandchildren, Makayla, Jacob and Eddie III.

Born in the early 1960's, her parents inculcated in her the love for discipline, hard work and positive results. Her brothers and sisters include Jeanie, an educator; Bridgette, an accountant; Cecelia, an accountant; Cecil Jr., entrepreneur; Cedric, a computer science engineer; and Jeremy, an electronic engineer. It would be a serious omission not to include a brother from another mother, Charles B. Ammons III, who has been a solid rock of wisdom, friendship and support, personally and professionally.

Terry's advice to youth interested in banking is that, "It's rewarding if the passion for helping people is your goal. Sometimes, the financial reward

and career advancement, is slow to come. So, if you're looking for a large salary and bells and whistles, choose another occupation."

## Liberty Bank and Trust Company

Liberty Bank and Trust was established in 1972, with headquarters in New Orleans. Liberty Bank and Trust Company's presence in Mississippi continues the legacy of many African Americans from Mississippi who fought and died for equal financial opportunities.

Like most African-American owned financial institutions, it battles ups and downs. However, Liberty Bank has survived due to its strong leadership and a loyal group of employees who have put the well-being of the bank, in many cases, ahead of their own personal lives, to ensure that the mission of the bank is fulfilled.

Its dominant problem at this CORONAVIRUS era, is the safety and health of its employees and patrons. Secondly, making careful and wise decisions as it relates to the financial soundness of the bank in the midst of unemployment and economic instability.



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## Biden

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da resort by the time the swearing-in took place.

Biden, in his third run for the presidency, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. Four years after Trump’s “American Carnage” speech painted a dark portrait of national decay, Biden warned that the fabric of the nation’s democracy was tearing but expressed faith that it could be repaired.

“I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real. But I also know they are not new. Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we are all created equal and the harsh, ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, demonization have long torn us apart,” Biden said. “This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward and we must meet this moment as the United States of America.”

Swearing the oath with his hand on a five-inch-thick Bible that has been in his family for 128 years, Biden came to office with a well of empathy and resolve born by personal tragedy as well as a depth of experience forged from more than four decades in Washington. At age 78, he is the oldest president inaugurated.

More history was made at his side, as Kamala Harris became the first woman to be vice president. The former U.S. senator from California is als the first black person and the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency and the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government.

The two were sworn in during an inauguration ceremony with few parallels. Biden, like all those in attendance, wore a face mask except when speaking. And tens of thousands of National Guard troops were on the streets to provide security precisely two weeks after a violent mob of Trump supporters, incited by the Republican president, stormed the Capitol in an attempt to prevent the certification of Biden’s victory.

“Here we stand, just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people,” Biden said. “To stop the work of our democracy. To drive us from this sacred ground. It did not happen. It will never happen. Not today, not tomorrow. Not ever. Not ever.”

The tense atmosphere evoked the 1861 inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, who was secretly transported to Washington to avoid assassins on the eve of the Civil War, or Franklin Roosevelt’s inaugural in 1945, when he opted for a small, secure ceremony at the White House in the waning months of World War II.

But Washington, all but deserted downtown and in its federal areas, was quiet. And calm also prevailed outside heavily fortified state Capitol buildings across nation after the FBI had warned of the possibility for armed demonstrations leading up to the inauguration.

The day began with a reach across the political aisle after four years of bitter partisan battles under Trump. At Biden’s invitation, congressional leaders from both parties bowed their heads in prayer in the socially distanced service a few blocks from the White House.

Biden was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts; Harris by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina member of the Supreme Court. Vice President Mike Pence, standing in for Trump, sat nearby as Lady Gaga, holding a golden microphone, sang the National Anthem accompanied by the U.S. Marine Corps band.

When Pence, in a last act of the outgoing administration, left the Capitol, he walked through a door with badly cracked glass from the riot two weeks ago. Later, Biden, Harris and their spouses were joined by the former presidents to solemnly lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Ceremony.

Biden was also to join the end of a slimmed-down inaugural parade as he moves into the White House. Because of the pandemic, much of this year’s parade was to be a virtual affair featuring performances from around the nation.

## Trump pardons Mississippi physician convicted of bribery

By Emily Wagster Pettus

The Associated Press

One of the people pardoned during Donald Trump’s final hours as president is a Mississippi physician who pleaded guilty to a federal bribery charge in 2012.

Dr. Robert S. Corkern was the president, secretary and treasurer of Batesville Hospital Management, which handled business operations for the not-for-profit Tri-Lakes Medical Center in Batesville.

Federal court records show that in his January 2012 guilty plea, Corkern admitted that on March 28, 2007, he paid \$25,000 to the Panola County administrator as a bribe for the administrator’s role in securing a \$400,000 county payment to the rural hospital eight days earlier.

“Corkern had a financial interest in Tri-Lakes Medical Center and benefitted from the \$400,000 transfer,” the records show.

Corkern was sentenced in November 2012 to two years’ house confinement and three years’ post-release supervision.

A White House news release said Trump’s pardon of Corkern is supported by Mississippi’s two Republican U.S. senators, Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith; and Republican former Gov. Phil Bryant.

“This pardon will help Dr. Corkern practice medicine in his community, which is in dire need of more doctors as it has struggled to keep up with demand for emergency services,” the news release said. “Dr. Corkern served in the Mississippi Army National Guard and has generously provided his services to low-income patients.”

The Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure revoked Corkern’s license January 2013 “due to felony conviction of crime of moral turpitude” and reinstated it in May 2014.

Corkern was working as an emergency room physician at Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville at the time his license was revoked.

## One

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ington, D.C.

Actress Keke Palmer hosted the first ever curated livestream for kids and young Americans during the inaugural ceremonies.

The inauguration was different this year not only because of a national pandemic but because of the pandemic of racism, white supremacy and hate. The Capitol was under high security after the Jan 6 a coupe d’etat. This day wouldn’t have been made possible if it wasn’t for black women who galvanized America especially in Georgia, Michigan and Philadelphia.

Black women all across America and the world watched the inauguration of the first black/Asian woman to be elected Vice President of the United States of America. Many watched while wearing pearls and Converse Chuck Taylor tennis shoes in support of Vice President Harris.

The pearls are a symbol of solidarity of Harris’ sorority sisters. Although Vice President Kamala Harris is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she has inspired millions of women especially those who are members of the Divine Nine.

The stylish 55-year-old is a graduate of Howard Univesity, a Historical Black College.

There are nine historically Black Greek letter organizations (BGLOs) that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Collectively, these organizations are referred to as “The Divine Nine.” Each of these fraternities and sororities is rich in history. Ties to one or more of these organizations may be found in many college-educated black families in the United States.

They are: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

Inauguration events have been taking place all week-long. On January 19, the Biden-Harris administration hosted a We Are One Celebration to celebrate diversity in America.

Jackson State University’s world renowned band, the Sonic Boom of the South, was one of the featured bands that performed along with bands from Florida A&M University Marching 100, South Carolina State University Marching 101, Southern University Human Jukebox Marching Band and Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands and Grambling State University World Famed Marching Band.



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Carolyn Amerson of Jackson, MS celebrated the inauguration of Vice President Kamala Harris by wearing pearls and Converse sneakers. PHOTO BY CHLOE AMERSON



# JSU features Dave Dennis Sr. at MLK Virtual Birthday Convocation

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent  
Contributing Writer

The Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University celebrated its 53rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Convocation at 10 a.m., Friday, January 15. The hour-long streamed event via Facebook attracted 256 viewers. Within the moment's narrative were JSU's students, JSU President Thomas Hudson, community leaders, and Civil Rights Veteran and Freedom Rider Dave Dennis, Sr.

The Rev. Audrey Hall of Holy Temple M.B. Church in Jackson, set the tone for the occasion when she voiced in the invocation: "Lord, you give us grace and strength to be instruments of your passion in a world often filled with bigotry and hatred. We thank you for King's time among us and his example of meaningful words. We rejoice that his life and legacy continue to inspire people of every color and ethnic – young, old and rich alike – to make this world a better place. Teach us, Lord, to be great followers of his teachings."

Hudson emphasized in his greetings that King fought tirelessly for freedom, equality and inclusion. He added that King promoted action through his work in behalf of those historically pushed aside. "Academics," he charged, "must be mindful of our responsibilities to our students. In these moments we must stand on character and be a voice for the voiceless and downtrodden."

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba injected that over the past 12 months it would appear that King's words and life would promote knowledge and understanding. "There is no better place than JSU, a marketplace of ideas, to recognize the challenge to lead the nation in carrying on King's legacy," he asserted.

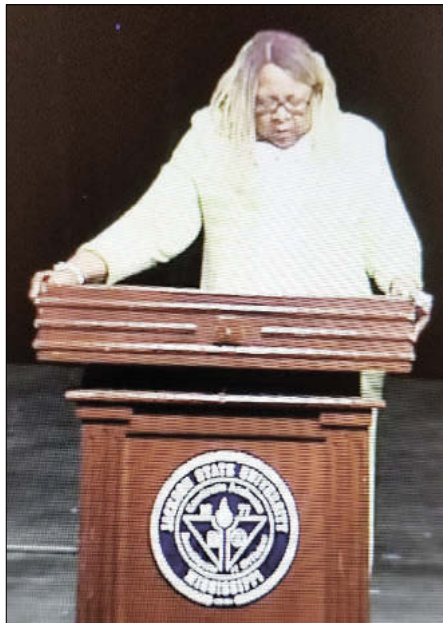
Calling forth the featured speaker Dave Dennis Sr. to the podium was Miss JSU – Daisia Davis who chimed that the convocation was in keeping with the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Rides. Davis then spoke of Dennis' commitment to civil rights and significant accomplishments. She noted that he was among the original Freedom Riders who rode from Montgomery, Ala. To Jackson, Miss. in 1961. For 60 years, Dennis fought to help people gain civil and human rights in Miss. and La. Throughout the years he persevered for first class citizenship.

In his address Dennis gave a descriptive, historical perspective of terrorism inflicted upon the black populace in Miss.

"I came to the state in 1962 to begin activities. Less than 5% of the black populace was registered to vote. I met Medgar Evers and we became friends. He told me there was a movement in Miss. to get people registered to vote."



Dave Dennis



Rev. Audrey Hall



Mayor Chokwe Lumumba



Arekia Bennett



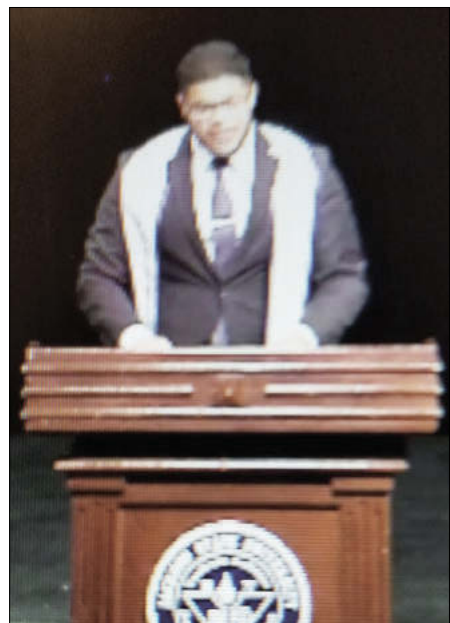
President Thomas Hudson



Jabarrie Evans



Daisia Davis, Miss JSU



Jacori Daniels, SGA president

Dennis explained that within that same year he was arrested in Clarksdale. Then "on October 1 James Meredith entered Ole Miss and Miss. was going crazy." Riots broke out on the campus and left hundreds wounded, two dead and many arrested following the Kennedy administration's calling out 31,000 national guardsmen and other federal forces to restore order.

The speaker educated the audience on a number of brutal incidents, including the assassination of Civil Rights leader Medgar Wiley Evers; students locked inside Jackson's Fair Grounds resulting from their protests; Herbert Lee's murder in Liberty, Miss.; the 1963 bombing of 4 little girls at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.; the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy; the 1964 murders of Civil Rights workers: a black (James Chaney) and two Jews (Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner).

Dennis further mentioned the development of the Freedom Democratic Party, the contributions of Fannie Lou Hamer, Hollis Watkins and many others; and Freedom Summer when white student volunteers were brought to Miss.

"We felt if we brought white kids of the Constitution, it would be a good idea, though there were mixed views. We had to become more aggressive to get the attention of the country or we were all going to die," said Dennis.

Dennis spoke of the U.S. housing the largest prison record of blacks in the world and whites who left the

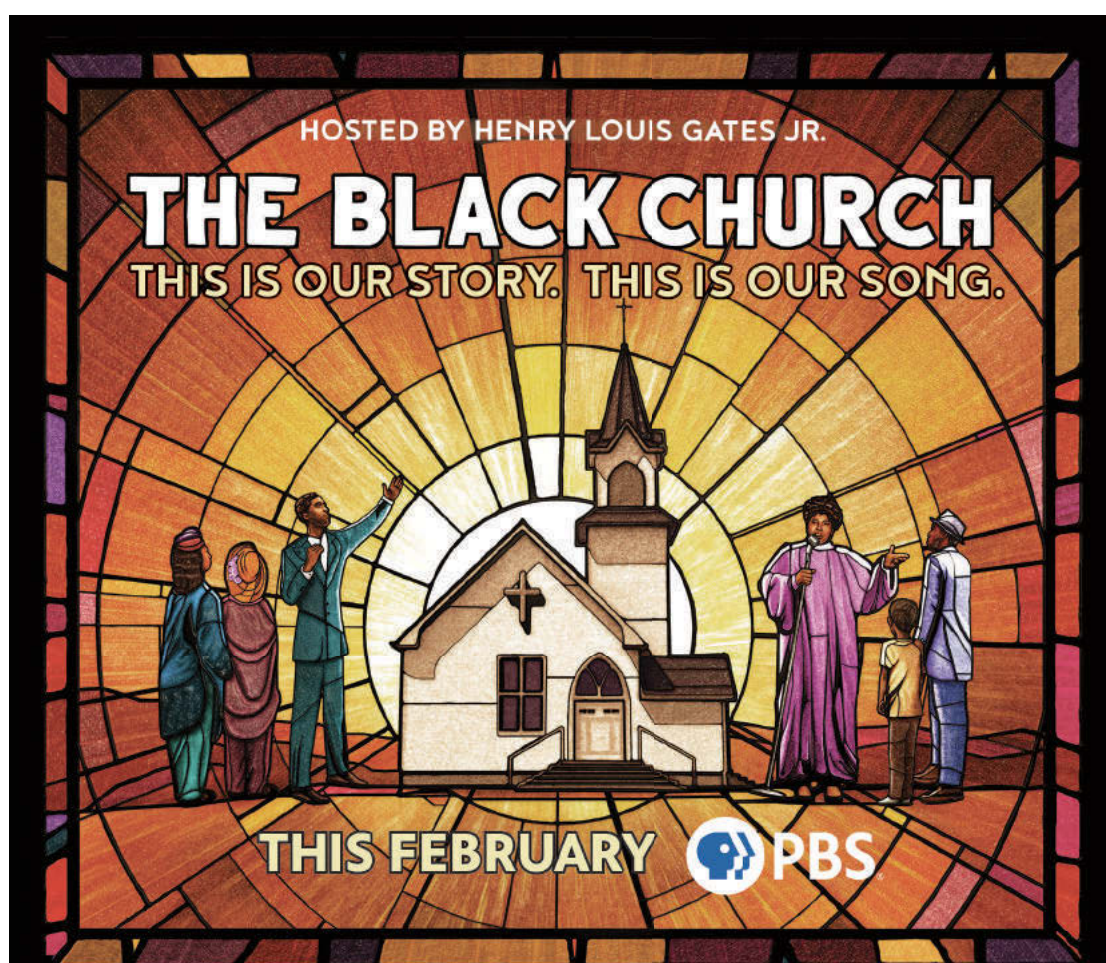
Democratic Party and joined the Republican Party.

"The result of all this is what we now have. The system has caused us to be afraid of our own children. So the question is "What type of America do we want our children to grow up in? We must develop and support our own education system. We should not expect the white community to support our children," the speaker quipped.

In closing his address, Dennis noted that Francis Scott Key was a slaveholder who remarked that free slaves should be sent back to Africa. He charged the audience to study the National Anthem. "There is one document, the Preamble to the Constitution, which could possibly unite all of us in America for a better America. Go home and read it."

Following Dennis' speech, executive director at Mississippi Votes Arekia Bennett, emphasized: "There is much work to do. The legacy of the Mississippi project is what grounds us to see that our people are deeply engaged in the voting process. Sacrifices were not in vain. It is our duty to fulfill the promise of Dr. King's dream without compromise."

After Jabarrie Evans (accompanied by musician/staff – Jerry Smith) led the audience in James Weldon Johnson's Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing, Hall concluded the event's narrative with the benediction: "Lord, teach us to walk in unity and to be creative. Thank you for JSU and the students for taking up the legacy to follow Dr. King and to lay groundwork for the next generation."



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Cherita Brent - Comedienne/Musician



Major corporate support for THE BLACK CHURCH: THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG is provided by Johnson & Johnson. Major support is also provided by Lily Endowment Inc., Ford Foundation, and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and public television viewers.



## Major exhibition of work by pioneering artist Dusti Bongé to be presented at Mississippi Museum of Art

*Special to the Mississippi Link*

The Mississippi Museum of Art recently announced its presentation of Piercing the Inner Wall: The Art of Dusti Bongé, an expansive survey revealing the full range of the pioneering artist's oeuvre. Considered Mississippi's first artist to work consistently in a Modernist style, Bongé (1903–93) was active in New York's dynamic art scene and creative communities which flourished along the Gulf Coast in the 1930s through the early 1990s. During her lifetime, she created a multifaceted body of work that transitioned from figurative and Cubist depictions of scenes of her hometown Biloxi in the late 1930s, through a period of Surrealism and into Abstract Expressionism that defines her mature work.

On view February 20 through May 23, 2021, the exhibition comprises 65 paintings, 29 works on paper, and three sculptures drawn from private loans and public institutions including works from the museum's own collection.

Piercing the Inner Wall, a presentation in the Myra Green and Lynn Green Root Memorial Exhibition Series, provides a singular opportunity for visitors to experience a vibrant selection of work spanning Bongé's prodigious career.

The museum's chief curator and artistic director of the Center for Art & Public Exchange Ryan Dennis said, "While her friends and contemporaries included art-world luminaries such as Agnes Martin, Betty Parsons, Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg and Clyfford Still, the recognition bestowed on Dusti Bongé at the time was less in comparison. This exhibition



illuminate the enduring presence and power of Bongé's art and helps address this oversight.

While women have been historically – and notoriously – underrepresented in museum collections and galleries, change is happening. Bongé's immense creativity, risk-taking and dedication to her practice resulted in a body of work that holds its place in the canon of postwar American art. We are delighted to reintroduce this adventurous spirit to a wider audience with this stunning presentation."

Organized by the Ogden Museum of Southern Art (the Ogden), New Orleans, where it debuted in 2019, the exhibition coincides with Dusti Bongé, Art and Life: Biloxi, New Orleans, New York, a comprehensive, richly illustrated publication. The author, J. Richard Gruber, Ph.D., director emeritus of the Ogden, examines Bongé's life and times and reveals how her practice and artistic vision evolved.

Through in-depth research and insights, Gruber explores Bongé's artistic output from a regional and national perspective within cultural contexts of 20th century American art and

society.

Following an early career as an actor, Bongé was inspired by her husband, the artist Archie Bongé. Whereas Archie had been a student at New York's Art Students League and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, among others, he recommended that she forego traditional academy-based classes and, instead, follow her own aesthetic instincts and explore her natural talent.

Two years after returning to Biloxi from New York to raise their young son Lyle and set up a studio, Archie died prematurely in 1936. Dusti found solace in the studio and began painting in earnest, experimenting with a range of styles. The exhibition showcases the breadth of her artistic investigations and experiments spanning most of the 20th century.

Dusti Bongé, Art and Life: Biloxi, New Orleans, New York, is available in The Museum Store.

Piercing the Inner Wall: The Art of Dusti Bongé, a presentation in the Myra Green and Lynn Green Root Memorial Exhibition Series, is presented with support from the Dusti Bongé Art Foundation.

## “Let It Be Known” NNPA rolls out live daily breaking news broadcast

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

For 194 years, the Black Press of America has remained the voice of the African-American community and the soul of the nation.

With more than 230 black-owned newspapers and media companies comprising the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Black Press's contributions have remained indelibly associated with the fearlessness, determination and the striving for excellence of the African-American community across the nation.

Wholly embracing the print, social, and digital worlds, the NNPA finished 2020, having broadcast hundreds of livestreams over its many social media channels and on its primary news site, www.BlackPressUSA.com.

The NNPA's latest initiative into live broadcasts in 2021 is the new daily morning breaking news program, "Let it Be Known," hosted by NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent Stacy Brown.

NNPA President & CEO Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr, emphasized, "We are the only national trade association of black owned newspapers, digital and social media companies in America. As such, we begin 2021 committed to publishing, distributing and broadcasting the essential news not only for black Americans, but also for the entire nation and the international community.



These are trying times. But this is also the time to reassert the value, impact, engagement and commitment of the Black Press to speak truth to power. Let It Be Known: We break the news. We distribute the news. We advocate for freedom, justice and equality."

The new program, which kicked off earlier this month, features an interactive rundown of the hot topics of the day – providing news and information to an audience that demands black inclusion.

Special guests will include NNPA publishers, reporters, photographers and members of both chambers of Congress.

It will also include global influencers, change-makers and celebrities.

The program builds upon NNPA's loaded vault of livestreams that have attracted such superstars as Ice Cube, Chuck D, Ziggy Marley, Kurtis Blow, Stephanie Mills, Mary Wilson, Sinbad, LL Cool J and many others.

Previous guests include for-

mer ESPN anchor Jemele Hill, Meharry Medical College President Dr. James Hildreth, New York Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Infectious Disease leader Dr. Anthony Fauci, Temptations' Legend Otis Williams, Democratic Majority Whip Congressman Jim Clyburn, New York Billionaire Michael Bloomberg, President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

The program lends to the long list of contributions of the Black Press of America, which includes the celebrated works of our founders and predecessors like John Russwurm, Samuel Cornish, Frederick Douglass, WEB DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah, Robert Abbott, John Sengstacke, and other former NNPA chairmen such as Dr. Carlton Goodlett and Garth Reeves Sr.

Tune in to NNPA's "Let It Be Known" weekdays at 7:30 a.m. EST at Facebook.com/BlackPressUSA.

### The Mississippi Link™

Volume 27 • Number 13

January 21 - 27, 2021

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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton  
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett  
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson  
Photographers.....Kevin Bradley & Jay Johnson

Member:



The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

Advertising: For all advertising information, please call (601) 896-0084.

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## Is removing Confederate monuments, changing sports teams names just a distraction?



Workers remove statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from U.S. Capitol/PHOTO BY JACK MAYER, OFFICE OF VIRGINIA GOV. RALPH NORTHAM

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Protests and unrest in 2020 sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, shined an even brighter spotlight on police brutality against African Americans.

The actions led to renewed calls to remove Confederate statues and other racially insensitive structures.

Professional sports teams, including the Washington Football Team (formerly the Redskins) and Cleveland Indians announced they would change the monikers that many said are offensive to Native Americans.

Despite incremental progress, many still argue that unless much more is done to show that black lives matter, removing racist monuments and changing racially insensitive team names and logos are just mere distractions.

In other words, those who spoke with the Black Press on the subject said they are eager to see more tangible results.

“Dismantling Confederate monuments and ridding sports teams and brands of racist imagery is not enough,” Marcos Martinez, the owner of the blog, [www.themen-whobrunch.com](http://www.themen-whobrunch.com), wrote in an email.

“For there to be racial progress, there needs to be drastic improvements in failing schools in minority communities,” Martinez exclaimed.

He noted the many academic studies that prove education leads to better life opportunities.

“I know this firsthand because I lived in Brownsville, one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in New York,” Martinez remarked.

“Many of my [peers] who attended the schools in Brownsville didn’t graduate or didn’t pursue higher education. Most of them are either incarcerated or deceased due to gun violence.”

Darryl Smith, the founding partner for the firm, Florida Car Accident Law Team, said backlash remains from the dismantling of racist statues and the changing of names by some sports teams.

“The dismantling of the monuments and the rebranding of the teams’ racist imagery is not an end unto itself, and that should be remembered in the face of the expected backlash from those who really don’t want to see that imagery go away and make outsized noise about it,” Smith offered.

“We want to remember that these things are distance markers on the road to moving society toward a more inclusive future,” he continued.

“[Monuments] are inappropriate for spaces that are meant to represent all of the people in a particular jurisdiction as opposed to a select

few. This is different from the concept of fighting systemic racism.”

Since the murder of Floyd in May, an estimated more than 100 Confederate symbols have been removed from around the country, including a Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from the U.S. Capitol that had represented Virginia for more than a century.

In July, the Washington Football Team announced it would drop the racist nickname, Redskins, after Pepsi, Nike and FedEx received letters from investors calling on them to end their more than \$620 billion sponsorship deals with the team.

The Cleveland baseball team later announced it would drop “Indians” as its nickname after the 2021 season.

“Changing sport teams names and tearing down statues are great PR moves by companies and politicians, but we’re never going to fix the problem until we educate the youth,” pronounced Jamie Hickey, the founder of <https://coffeesemantics.com/>.

“Racist parents that raise racist kids is the reason why we still have an equality issue in America. Kids aren’t born racist. They are raised to be racist,” Hickey declared.

“It’s the same as when people say pit bulls are mean. There is no such thing as a mean pit bull, only mean owners.”

Ken Eulo, the Smith & Eulo Law Firm’s founding partner in Orlando, Florida, said tangible change is needed.

“In 2021, rebuilding is likely to be a recurring theme. Black Americans want to reinforce the idea of rebuilding and developing communities in what we hope will be a post-COVID-19 society,” Eulo said.

“We want to see news, think pieces and human-interest stories that lend themselves to the idea of this being the time for black innovation and excellence in a way that may not have been advisable before.”

This year needs to be a time “where we as individuals and a community find new ways to uplift ourselves after a year where we saw widely held beliefs, and long-standing conventions broken and cast aside in the wake of a global pandemic,” concluded Smith, of the Florida Car Accident Law Team.

“This is a time where finding ways to function outside the box can reap real benefits at a time when all bets appear to be off,” Smith demanded.

“We need to see examples of black people and black communities thriving in the face of this unprecedented adversity, and examples of our political and economic influence being wielded for the betterment of black Americans and the black diaspora.”

## Senate passes bill to create African-American Burial Grounds Network

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed legislation that would better protect historic African-American cemeteries.

The measure also paves the way for the creation of an African-American Burial Grounds Network.

“We know that for too long in too many parts of our country, black families were blocked from burying their loved ones in white cemeteries,” Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) remarked.

“These men and women were freed slaves, civil rights champions, veterans, mothers, fathers, workers in communities. We need to act now before these sites are lost to the ravages of time or development,” Brown concluded.

Initially introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2019 by Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC) and Congressman Donald McEachin (D-Va.), the bill primarily addresses at-risk black cemeteries in South Carolina.

Still, it authorizes the Department of the Interior to conduct a thorough investigation of African-American burial grounds across the country.

According to a Smithsonian Magazine report, the study would “lay the groundwork for the network, allowing experts to coordinate research efforts, create a nationwide database of black cemeteries, and receive grant funding.”

Sen. Brown and now ex-Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) later introduced the measure in the Senate. It now heads back to the House for a formal vote.

The action is yet another recent legislative attempt to honor and preserve black burial grounds.

In 2019, then-Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), along with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), were joined by Reps. Gregory Meeks, Yvette Clarke and Adriano Espaillat



The African American Burial Grounds initiative would provide grant opportunities and technical assistance to local communities as they work to recover and preserve those historic sites.

(all of New York), and announced the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Education Center Act’s reintroduction.

That legislation would establish a museum and education center at the African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan.

This site currently holds the remains of an estimated 15,000 free and enslaved Africans and early-generation African Americans from the colonial era.

The National Park Service would manage the museum in consultation with the African Burial Ground Advisory Council, which would be established by the legislation.

“The African Burial Ground is culturally and historically significant to New York and the nation. The establishment of a museum and an education center at this cemetery will illuminate the plight, courage and humanity of the free and enslaved Africans who helped create New York,” Sen. Schumer told NNPA Newswire in 2019.

“As a nation, we must always remember the tremendous burdens and afflictions experienced by those who were brought here in bondage, and who fought – for generations – against impossible odds to achieve the full

measure of dignity and equality and justice that they were due. I am proud to cosponsor this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill and for the president to sign it into law.”

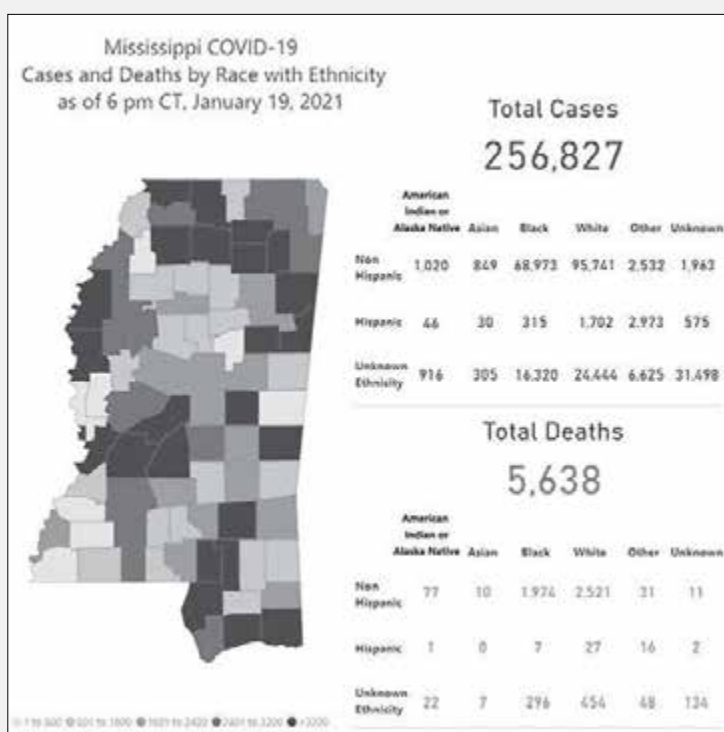
The African American Burial Grounds initiative would provide grant opportunities and technical assistance to local communities as they work to recover and preserve those historic sites.

According to the letter signed by more than 60 organizations dedicated to cultural heritage and preservation, cemeteries are places of tribute and memory, connecting communities with their past.

“Unfortunately, many African-American burial grounds from both before and after the Civil War are in a state of disarray or inaccessibility,” the letter stated.

“By creating a national network, the African American Burial Grounds Network Act would help re-discover the existence of burial grounds ahead of commercial development, helping to avoid disturbances that create distress and heartache in communities. Preserving and protecting these sacred sites, and the stories they tell is an integral part of our American heritage.”

### MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE





# Herbal Blessings: curative, medicinal, preventive health, wellness strategies



Yohance Myles, Latrice Ramsey with a customer, and Eric T. Collins Sr. (R) at Herbal Blessings store on Farish Street in Jackson. PHOTO BY JERRY DOMATOB

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob  
Contributing Writer

Sections of the once famous Farish Street in Jackson, Mississippi today are scarred by abandoned buildings and unkept properties yet it still attracts a few bustling new businesses.

## Herbal Blessings

One of these up-and-coming popular enterprises strategically located at 614 North Farish Street is Herbal Blessings. It is opened Tuesday-Saturday 10-7 p.m. and Sunday 1-6 p.m.

A neatly organized and authentic shop, it comprises a two roomed partition block stocked with diverse herbs in myriad bottles, plastic and other containers.

## Merchandise

Shelves are stocked with herbs displayed in different bottle and plastic sizes and shapes.

The shop carries natural food and health care products such as: seamoss, elder berry, turmeric and over 200 herbs that address wellness, diverse illnesses and diseases.

Proprietors also have a metaphysical wall that carries gemstones, Florida water, road opener, Palo Santo, Sage and spiritual candles. They can formulate any herbal blend needed.

## Clients & Curious

Clients and the curious people from all parts of the United States patronize and visit the shop. They come from all over Mississippi and abroad. According to the owners, Eric T. Collins Sr., Yasmin J. Gabriel-Collins and Eric E.J. Collins Jr., “We have clients in Vicksburg, Meridian, Canton and the coast. In short, we have clients from all parts of the United States and we do business with them.”

## Uniqueness

The unique facet of the business is its hands-on approach. Each customer’s issues are taken individually. They are respectfully guarded and guided by their unique needs.

## Challenges

Challenges include keeping

their popular blends stocked on the shelves. “We are happy to say that we have been flooded with hundreds of people who are tired of being sick and want to work towards having a better quality of life,” Collins confidently asserts.

## Delight & Joy

“Our delight and joy running this business include selfless actions of caring and helping people who want to help themselves. To be the change that we wanted to see speaks volumes to the amount of gratitude we receive.”

## Future Plans

In future they plan to introduce a mobile app, initiate affiliate programs and open new locations.

## Training

How do you train for this art? There are various courses for herbalists who willingly assist any persons who are interested in herbs and natural health.

## Managers

The founders and managers are Eric T. Collins Sr., Yasmin J. Gabriel-Collins and Eric EJ Collins Jr. He is the son of Beverly Johnson and Sylvester Collins Sr. of Jackson, Mississippi. He attended Lanier High School, Hinds Community College, Jackson State University and Cornell University where he obtained a certificate in Point Based Nutrition Studies.

He obtained additional knowledge in the field through observation, reading, listening and working.

## Wife & Partner

Herbal Blessings co-founder and owner, Yasmin Gabriel Collins, is the daughter of Linda Taylor of New Orleans, Louisiana and Alvin Gabriel of New Orleans. She grew up in New Orleans and graduated from Spelman College and Howard University School of Law. She has licenses to practice law in a number of states and jurisdictions.

Their philosophy of business is “to support people’s journey to better health and wellness.”

## Purpose

Herbal Blessing proprietors understand that we live in a world of addictive foods and know first hand, that it is a challenge to make changes to our diet that will improve our quality of life. Herbal Blessings was created to support people’s journey towards being aware of what we put in our bodies and created products to assist anyone who wants to change their life style.

## Helpers & Workers

Herbal Blessings consultants include China Cooper, Jabaz Reeves, Malcolm Murrow and Latrice Ramsey.

## Herbal Blessings

The shop is called Herbal Blessings based on Revelations 22:2, which among other things, articulates the notion that herbs provide a rich healing power.

Brittany Shelby of Jackson, Mississippi, who frequently visits Herbal Blessings, says, “It has opened my mind to better my health. Manager Eric T. Collins and his team are very influential with helping customers understand what their bodies need and the proper steps to take care of themselves.”

The staff provides proper recommendations to help those in need and take appropriate and necessary steps to better themselves. They believe in what they do and practice what they are teaching. The items they provide are beneficial to those who need them.

A remarkable facet of the business is the commitment, dedication and devotion they manifest. The owners and workers are not only diligent and determined but are also creative and convincing.

Their customer service to say the least is outstanding. They welcome clients, engage them through conversation, listen attentively to them and provide needed counsel and advice. They do outstanding team work.

Herbal Blessings was established in April 2019.

# My COVID-19 incident



By Vince Faust  
The Mississippi Link Newswire

It’s possible a vaccinated person can pick up, carry and spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others. This means the vaccine should keep you from getting symptoms but there is still a chance you can pass the virus from person to person. You’d have no idea it was happening.

On Tuesday a man wearing a Philadelphia EMT jacket at a supermarket on senior day assaulted me because I asked him why he wasn’t wearing a mask in the store. He said he didn’t have to wear a mask because he had a note. He grabbed me and took my phone. I got away from him. He then threw my phone on the floor trying to break it. My concern is that he appeared to be a city employee that works with sick people all day. He exposed every senior in the store to whatever he was exposed to while doing his job.

I’m a 70-year-old black man that posed no threat to a young man that was well over six feet tall. Store personnel finally came to my aid but not before the young man made his purchase and ran out of the store still not wearing a mask. I kept asking myself why would medical personnel not want to wear a mask to keep others safe. I was asked to make a police report. I made a police report. The police handled the report very professionally. My only question was why not one police person in that building was wearing a mask. I didn’t ask them any questions. The officer that took my report did wear a mask as he took my report. We vaccinated first responders first because they were being exposed to COVID-19 everyday. They should not act recklessly and expose the people they are supposed to serve and protect. We depend on them.

I know that some first responders have gotten a COVID-19 vaccine but it does not mean they can’t spread the COVID-19 virus. Wearing masks, social distancing and avoiding crowded spaces are going to be necessary for a long time. Researchers say that even after getting vaccinated, if someone is exposed to the virus it can take the body’s immune response some time to control an infection and the potential for transmission depends on how quickly the infection is controlled by your body. “Most vaccines prevent disease as opposed to preventing infection,” says Anna Durbin, a professor of international health at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

There are over 328,000,000 Americans. We need 75% to 80% of the U.S. population to be vaccinated to reach herd immunity. That 328,000,000 count was taken 10 years ago and it didn’t include students here on visas, people on work visas, migrate workers nor people in the U.S. illegally. That makes that number that needs to get vaccinated much larger. We need more than 246,000,000 people to be vaccinated to get herd immunity. As of January 19, 2021 according to the CDC only 12,279,180 have received the 1st dose.

Even traveling is still risky because

it will expose you to large numbers of people in airports, hotels, restaurants and public spaces. All of the people you encounter are also travelers that carry germs from their country, state, city and neighborhood.

Mask wearing is a preventative method called source control. This is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Clinical and laboratory studies show masks will reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and under your chin. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another. Masks are particularly important where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain. You also have to remember people who do not have symptoms, don’t know that they are infected and those who have got the vaccine can spread COVID-19.

We should treat ourselves and everyone else as if we are all infected. That’s why everyone should wear masks in public settings and practice social distancing. Even after we have a vaccine we will still need to wear a mask. The wearing of a mask is not going away anytime soon.

The CDC recommendations for wearing a mask:

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent

The CDC recommendations for removing a mask:

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.

My family and friends want me to cool my jets. They want me to take a different approach in handling people in my space and not wearing a mask or wearing a mask incorrectly. I have cooled my jets not out of fear but because I don’t want me, the person not wearing a masks nor anyone around to get hurt. I went back to the gym a couple of days ago. They were still not wearing mask nor wearing them correctly. I didn’t start jumping up and down. I decided to tell the staff and bug them until they get the members to wear their mask.

We are our brother’s keeper because what my brother does can infect and kill a friend, a family member or me.

Business should do their part. Tell your customers to wear a mask. You can’t buy a hamburger at McDonalds’ unless you have a shirt on. You can’t smoke on a bus.

Masks are a necessity at this time in our life. Wear them for everyone’s safety.



# Stand up for Jesus

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III  
Special to The Mississippi Link



Thank God we still have witnesses today who are standing tall and strong. They are unbiased and honest, and they tell it straight. They are speaking out clearly, and they are giving a distinct message. I am glad that some people are still respectful of the Word and the Spirit of God.

In many places people are getting a mixed message rather than a clear testimony by the Word and the Spirit. First Corinthians 14:8 says,

“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” To prepare for the battle, people need a clear and distinct message from the Word of God.

Again, Revelation 11:11 reads, “And after three days and an half the Spirit of Life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them!” Child of God, if the Word of God and the Spirit of God are going to stand up and testify, they are going to use our feet and hands. God is looking for individuals who will stand up and witness and tes-

tify for Him. This is a day of great opportunity. When we allow the two witnesses to stand up and testify, then the world can find hope and comfort and a way out of their dilemmas. Many have difficult problems; therefore, we need to be bold for God and stand. If we are living holy, we need to stand up and let it be known.

Our scripture text says, “they stood upon their feet.” In one song entitled “Stand up for Jesus,” verse 1 says: “Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the cross: Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss: From victory unto victory His

army shall He lead, Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.” If we decide to no longer stand up for the Word and testify to the Will of God, we will be the loser.

Friend, are we standing boldly for God? Are we taking a clear, clean stand for Him? Do people know where we stand? If they do not, we need to ask God to give us the grace and the courage to stand for Him.

*Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.*

## P R E S E R V E D Reaping your harvest

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



Anger. Shock. Awe. Disgust. Fear. Anxiety. Confusion. These are just a few of the sentiments expressed by many after the Jan. 6 insurrection at the US Capitol that was incited by the lies and dangerous rhetoric of then President Donald Trump.

Since then, there has been continuous analysis of how the deadly storming of the Capitol could happen with some saying that the domestic terrorist attack was an indication of larger problems within the Republican Party and our nation, specifically racial and social inequality. Some say that the divisions within the Republican party between those who want to move forward beyond the Trump era and those who falsely claim the election was stolen are deep enough to destroy it for good.

That may be true but to me it looks like something else. Galatians 6:7-8 warns “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

It appears as though the divisions in the Republican Party are the harvest of the seeds of division that Republicans have sowed for the last 12 years. During that time, the Republican Party, including party officials as well as elected officials, waged a deliberately vicious campaign against President Obama’s administration, his policy and Democrats. This includes the fight over the Affordable Care Act (ACA also known as Obamacare), the fight over filling the vacant seats of late Supreme Court Justices Antonin

Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the attempts to undue the policies of the Obama administration.

What does all of this have to do with the truth in those verses from Galatians? The Republican party has planted seeds of disrespect, dissension, discord and division for the past 12 years and what is their harvest? A political party that is very close to splitting and a disgraced president whose disastrous one term will be known for chaos, division and disorganization. In contrast, President Obama, whom Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared would be a one term president just days after his 2008 inauguration, now enjoys record high approval ratings.

For a political party that very boldly states that they are guided by Christian principles, they seem to have missed the important biblical lesson of seed and harvest. The seeds that are planted will bring about the harvest of what is at the heart of the seed. Just like an apple seed will produce apples, seeds of separation can only produce separation. It is ludicrous to expect party unity or even a unified country after so many years of hateful contentious rhetoric.

Watching these recent events unfold should remind each of us to be careful what we say and do to others. Unless there is a crop failure, you will surely get the harvest of the seeds you plant.

The question you may want to ask yourself is what kind of seeds are you planting in your life and in the lives of others.

*Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*



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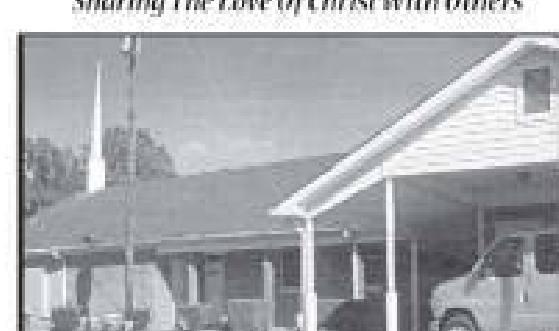


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# White America finally having “the conversation”

By Leon Williams  
Contributing Writer

For decades prognosticators have proclaimed America must have a conversation about race. In the wake of countless injustices inflicted upon people of color, the “conversation” concept is entrenched as America’s go-to default posture.

When confronted with the idea we must have an American dialogue on race, the question must be asked, “what do you mean ‘WE?’” Black Americans have no significant influence over a single American institution. Corporations, banks, major colleges and universities, media outlets and housing markets are exclusively under control of white America. Nonetheless, America finds itself repeatedly in default mode. Truthfully, America has been having a conversation about race since the arrival of slaves in Jamestown, Virginia in 1619.

White anarchists storming the U.S. Capitol on January 6 did not happen in a vacuum. The fuel driving the insurrectionists is provided by an almost laughable paradox: And that is that people of color, particularly blacks, are taking over the country. A paradox is defined as “a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory proposition, leading to an unacceptable or senseless conclusion.”



Here are some hard facts: *The Washington Post* recently provided statistical information indicating the economic/financial divide between blacks and whites has remained consistent over the last fifty-seven years. In 2016 *The Nation* printed an article indicating that under current economic trends, it would take black America 228 years to close the black/white wealth divide. A 2019 study reveals a huge gap between the median wealth held by black families (\$17,000) and white families (\$171,000). Therein lies the paradox!

What then, is white America really grappling with? As

countries move toward global economies, America has seen a steady decline of the middle class. High tech jobs and the technological revolution demand higher levels of education. Blue-collar jobs are fading, narrowing opportunities for uneducated whites – and whites, in general – to succeed; not to mention having an even greater negative impact on blacks. Unfortunately, whites have been effectively hoodwinked by other whites into believing that people of color are the source of their trepidation. Who then are the other whites?

A widely available 2019 report circulated by the U.S.

Federal Reserve reveals that white billionaires and millionaires own almost everything in the United States. White families with net worth over \$1 million owned nearly 80% of all the household wealth in the U.S. While the bottom half of American households owned just 1.5% of the wealth. This wealth gap continues to widen as the wealthy maintain their chokehold on the U.S. economy.

Now they are finally having “the conversation” among themselves. It is a tough lesson for whites to learn, but it does appear they are coming to the grim realization that they have met the enemy and it is them.

# A letter to my daughter: “From the Promise to the Precipice”



Rev. Stephen Tillett and daughter Sophia

By Rev. Stephen Tillett  
Trice Edney Newswire



My Sophia: Soon, you will witness a first-time event in American history, the swearing-in of Kamala Harris, the first woman to be elected vice president of the United States. The significance of her being an African-American woman, and one of Nana’s sorority sisters, might escape you. After all, Barack Obama was president when you were born.

Four years later, a woman, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, was the favored candidate for president. When you awoke on November 9, 2016, you learned that some things that seem certain do not always happen. When you learned that Mrs. Clinton lost the vote in the Electoral College, you cried. As a result of that experience, you have learned more about the highs and lows of politics than most children might be expected to know. Nevertheless, having people of color and women in positions of power may not seem that momentous to you.

Babygirl, the events of January 6, 2021 have changed everything. And I’m sad to say you may be living in some of the most dangerous days in this country since the Civil War.

There is a new word I will introduce to you today. Precipice. In the context of our politics, precipice means “a situation of great peril.”

Since the election in November, there has been a nonstop drumbeat of disinformation (lies) about the way the election was conducted and its outcome. Anywhere else in the world, winning an election by over 7 million votes means you are declared the winner. Sadly, because of the Electoral College, not here. That has created room for the lies to take hold and inspired the riot that occurred at the Capitol.

I regret that we, your parents and ancestors, have allowed an atmosphere to take hold in our country that is unworthy of you and your peers, with angry mobs storming the Capitol building threatening to “hang” the vice president, and to harm members of Congress. You are certainly not seeing us at our best and I don’t want you

to accept this ugliness as normal. Indeed, this country was founded on the highest written ideals. The Declaration of Independence says, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men (and women) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

There were many times in the past 245 years when our country did not live up to those ideals, especially for those of us who are the descendants of stolen Africans. Indeed, these sentiments often remain aspirational (we hope they will become true someday), nevertheless we still choose to believe in the “Promise of America.”

After January 6, our confidence is somewhat shaken. Yet we remain determined to, as President Abraham Lincoln said, to remember that “we are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

He gave this speech in 1865 near the end of the Civil War. He was reminding us that despite our differences, we are not enemies. While events may have strained our bonds (as Americans) if we choose to work through the hard times and stay together, the “better angels of our nature” will help us find our way out of the darkness to a better place where we are all seen and valued as equals with rights that are respected and protected. I know times are hard, but don’t ever give up. Time does not march backward, always forward. We will try to do our best and then, we pray, your generation will do even better!

Rev. Stephen Tillett, pastor of Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church in Annapolis, Maryland, is author of *Stop Falling for the Okeydoke: How the Lie of “Race” Continues to Undermine Our Country*; Political analyst for *The Lavonia Perryman Show (910 AM Superstation, Detroit, iHeart Radio)*, and a retired Air Force Chaplain.

# The bully in the White House is gone

By James B. Ewers Jr.  
President Emeritus  
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio



There is a new day in America. We can go to sleep at night not worrying about a deranged man who has access to the nuclear codes. Our nerves are a little less frazzled and stressed.

The past four years in our country have been unbelievably bad and full of torment. Never in our nation’s history has one person been a thorn in the world’s side.

Mr. T was never on solid ground. He was always on shaky ground and sinking sand.

He spoke lies to truth and had enough people believe in him. In fact, over 70 million people drank the hemlock that he was serving. The president of the United States spent his final days in the White House with the “pillow guy,” Mike Lindell. What was he doing at the White House?

The Biden administra-

tion will be challenged on all fronts. I think the actions that President Biden takes in the coming days will be crucial.

First off, safety of government officials and the Coronavirus are pressing issues. Reports surfaced that during the insurrection, the lives of congressmen and congresswomen were in danger. Fortunately, they were moved to safety.

Now police and the National Guard blanket Washington DC. They must remain in place until a sense of normalcy returns to the city and to government buildings.

The Bide/Harris administration has already stated there will be a more comprehensive distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. This will give the country more confidence as we battle this illness. In the prior administration, there was never a systematic plan. Now there will be.

President Biden wants to have 100 million people vaccinated in the first 100 days. That is a tall order especially when you see the disjointed and uneven efforts thus far. He

said, “We will spare no effort in getting this done.” He also wants to have a mask mandate on federal property. No longer will Republicans brazenly be able to walk the halls of Congress without wearing a mask.

Do you hear that Ted Cruz? Are you listening Lindsey Graham?

To further create another challenge for the Biden administration is the impeachment of Donald Trump. The House of Representatives passed one article of impeachment against him. This is the first time in American history that a president has been impeached twice. So, it will be interesting to see how the Senate and the president navigate these waters.

The president wants to get his nominees for various cabinet posts confirmed.

Meanwhile the Senate will take on the impeachment trial. Representative Jim Clyburn, Democrat from South Carolina, said the impeachment trial should not happen right away. There has not been a decision made as to when all of this will

happen.

America celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 18. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic the usual commemorations were not held in cities across this land. However, there were a few of them.

Volunteers in several cities following pandemic protocols did participate in an MLK Day of Service.

As this Civil Rights giant was celebrated, I wonder what he would think about the unrest in America today? I think he would see that there is power in the vote and in our democracy. I believe he would be proud of us. We must thank Dr. King, John Lewis, Shirley Chisholm, Jesse Jackson, Barbara Jordan and countless others, who paved the way with their sacrifice.

We have withstood the storm of having the worst president in our lifetime. Going out of office, the Pew Research Center showed that he had a 29% approval rating.

There is a new day ahead. At last!



## LEGAL

### DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received electronically via MAGIC or physically delivered to the office of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 02/23/2021, for:

RE: GS# 390-001 High Street and Lamar Street Improvements  
High Street and Lamar Street  
RFx #: 3160004114

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Neel-Schaffer, Inc. - Jackson (Jackson, Mississippi, through the Office listed herein)

Address: Post Office Box 22625  
Jackson, MS 39225-2625

Phone: 601-948-3178

Email: jonathan.kiser@neel-schaffer.com

A deposit of is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

1-21-2021, 1-28-2021

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC) WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE ANDREW JACKSON CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 105) OF THE WARREN HOOD BUILDING, 200 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

#### I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

##### A. NEW BUSINESS

1. CASE NO. 2021-02, REQUESTED BY: ROBERT E. FARR TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION TO THE HOUSE AT 1211 ST. ANN ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

2. CASE NO. 2021-04, REQUESTED BY: LAURA AND PATRICK TAYLOR TO KEEP THE NEWLY REPLACED THREE FRONT DOORS AND THE NEW WOODEN DECK WITH STAIRS AND RAILINGS, AND TO CONTINUE THE UNFINISHED EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS AT 1021 MONROE ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HEIGHTS HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

#### II. OTHER ITEMS

1. ADMINISTRATIVELY APPROVED COAS

#### III. ADJOURN

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, COMMISSIONERS AND APPLICANTS WILL ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING BZHAO@JACKSONMS.GOV TO REGISTER PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 3, 2021.

1-21-2021, 1-28-2021

## LEGAL

### Notice of Sale Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

2003 Kia Spectra

Vin: KNAFB121135247659

Registered to: Thomas, Destiny

McKenzie Check Advance of Mississippi, LLC, Lien Holder

Date of Sale: Feb. 5, 2021

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

1-21-2021, 1-28-2021, 2-4-2021

## LEGAL

### Notice of Sale Abandoned Vehicle

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

1989 Caprice

Vin: 1G1BL5178KA147889

Registered to: Dykes, Robert L.

Georges Place, Inc., Lien Holder

Date of Sale: Feb. 5, 2021

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

1-21-2021, 1-28-2021, 2-4-2021

## LEGAL

### ANNOUNCEMENT:

The City of Jackson is seeking individuals to work as poll workers from the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the upcoming 2021 Municipal Elections to be held on the following dates:

Primary, April 6, 2021

Primary Run-off, April 27, 2021

General, June 8, 2021

Each poll worker will be required to attend a two (2) training class. All interested parties should contact Kathy Cole, Deputy City Clerk at (601) 960-1033 or Linda Sanders, Chairperson of the Municipal Election Commission at (601) 960-1021 for additional information.

1-21-2021, 1-28-2021, 2-4-2021

## ATTENTION CONTENT PROVIDERS!

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New Year!*

from EarthBlend Coffee



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### Streaming Videos

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www.mississippilink.com



LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bid  
Bid 3160 Upgrade Middle School Science Labs

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 9, 2021, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Three (3) pre-bid conferences concerning the Upgrades to Middle School Science Labs will be held at the following sites:

- Brinkley Middle School, 3535 Albermarle Drive, Jackson, MS 39213 on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- Powell Middle School, 3655 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
- Whitten Middle School, 210 Daniel Lake Boulevard, Jackson, MS 39212 on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpds-projects.com](http://www.jpds-projects.com). A \$400.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$200.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact John Murray at Canizaro Cawthon Davis, Phone: 601-948-7337 or Email: [jmurray@ccdarchitects.com](mailto:jmurray@ccdarchitects.com).

1-14-2021, 1-21-2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY  
Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)  
City of Jackson: FY 2019 Housing and Community Development Programs

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS: The City of Jackson receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the following programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). HUD requires the City to prepare a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) on accomplishments of each of the programs in relation to needs, goals, strategies, and objectives of the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs.

Notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2021 the City's draft copy of the CAPER will be available for review and comment on the City's website at [www.jacksonms.gov](http://www.jacksonms.gov). There will be a virtual Public Hearing on January 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to join the virtual public hearing by:

Join the meeting: <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/7156046>

Click to call from Mobile (audio only)  
United States: +1 (312) 584-2401, 7156046#

Call in by Phone (audio only)  
United States: +1 (312) 584-2401  
Meeting extension: 7156046#

In addition, the public is invited to make comments and ask questions regarding the City's FY 2019 CAPER starting Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. via email at [ohcd@jacksonms.gov](mailto:ohcd@jacksonms.gov). Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. January 28, 2021.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Housing and Community Development, at 601-960-2155.

1-14-2021 1-21-21

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND  
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received electronically via MAGIC or physically delivered to the office of the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 02/16/2021 , for:

RE: GS# 422-161 Campus Roofing  
Ellisville State School  
RFx #: 3160004075

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: Robert Lewis/Architect  
Address: Post Office Box 1154  
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-1154  
Phone: 601-925-8180  
Email: [rlewis@rlarc.com](mailto:rlewis@rlarc.com)

A deposit of \$300.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director  
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

1-14-2021, 1-21-2021

LEGAL

Wait List/Applications

Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VI (MRHA VI) will open its Wait List for Hickman Heights Apartment, located at 150 Angle Drive, Jackson, MS. This new development, scheduled to open in the Summer 2021, will include 100 rent subsidized units with a mix of 80 one-bedrooms and 20 two-bedrooms. Persons interested in applying for housing assistance must make application during the open period, Monday, December 14, 2020 @ 8:00 am and will remain open until further notice. All applications must be made online at: <https://mrhavi.4housing.com/>. Preference will be given to persons ages 55 and over. Questions contact (601) 373-7040.

12-17-2020 12-24-2020, 12-31-2020, 1-7-2021,  
1-14-2021, 1-21-2021, 1-28-2021, 2-4-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bid  
Bid 3161 Ferguson JROTC Building Renovation

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) February 16, 2021, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project Ferguson JROTC Renovation will be held at Forest Hill High School, 2706 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS, on Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 1:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.jpds-projects.com](http://www.jpds-projects.com). A \$250.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$125.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Nick Jackson at M3A Architecture, PLLC, Phone: 601-981-1227 or Email: [NJACKSON@M3AARCH.COM](mailto:NJACKSON@M3AARCH.COM).

1-14-2021, 1-21-2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE  
ZONING CASE NO. 4113

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that the Alex & Sonia Walker have filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a side yard Variance for the west side of the property located at 1426 Woodshire Dr. (Parcel 738-1131) from the required five (5) feet side yard depth for properties zoned R-1A (Single-family) Residential District to allow for the continued placement of the existing accessory structures in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 62 Wildwood North Pt. 3

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO OR IN PERSON WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING [EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US](mailto:EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US) TO REGISTER PRIOR TO JANUARY 20, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of December 2020.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

1-7-2021, 1-21-2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION  
ZONING CASE NO. 4114

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Jabaz Reeves has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Special Exception to allow for a private kennel for up to five (5) canines within a R-1 (Single-Family) Residential District for the property located at 239 Ferguson Dr. (Parcel 207-48) in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lot 20, Block "B", Terry Road Subdivision, subdivision according to a map or plat thereof which is on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi, in Plat Book 7 at page 41, reference to which is hereby made in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS AND THE APPLICANTS HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND THE MEETING WITH REGARDS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS AND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS OR VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO BY EMAILING [EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US](mailto:EAINSWORTH@CITY.JACKSON.MS.US) TO REGISTER PRIOR TO JANUARY 20, 2021.

WITNESS my signature this 30th day of December 2020.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth  
Zoning Administrator  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

1-7-2021, 1-21-2021

LEGAL

CITY OF JACKSON  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
WOODROW WILSON AVENUE PROJECT  
FROM MILL STREET TO MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DRIVE  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. STP-0250-00(053) LPA/108075-701000

The City of Jackson (LPA) intends to employ a consulting engineering firm to provide engineering services utilizing a Cost plus Fixed Fee, Labor Hour/Unit Price or Lump Sum/Firm Fixed Price contract for Woodrow Wilson Avenue Project from Mill Street to Martin Luther King, Jr Drive, Project No. STP-0250-00(053) LPA/108075-701000, Hinds County, Mississippi. These services include construction engineering, inspection, testing, and related work. The firm shall provide these services in accordance with MDOT's Project Development Manual for Local Public Agencies (LPAs).

Upon selection, negotiation, and execution of contract, the LPA anticipates the duration of the contract to be approximately 6-12 months. The LPA anticipates executing the contract by spring 2021.

To be considered, the "Expression of Interest" proposal must respond to all requirements of this Legal Advertisement. The recommended proposal length should not exceed twenty-five (25) pages, exclusive of appendices. The resumes (which should not exceed 2 pages per individual in length), SF-330 Part II, proof of State Licensure and certificates requirements, and other information not relevant to the requirements should be included in the appendices. The Consultant's cover letter, table of contents, summaries and introductions, team organizational chart, past performances, and any other responses to the evaluation criteria should be included in the 25 pages. Pages should be numbered, single-spaced, one-sided, 8.5" by 11" with margins of at least one inch on all four sides. No more than five pages may be 11" by 17", but they may count as two sheets each against the recommended 25 page maximum. Information within the recommended 25 page limit of the proposal should be complete and sufficient in scope for the selection committee to evaluate the Consultant. Also, all text information in the recommended 25 page limit should be shown in a readable font, size 12 points or larger. Headers, charts, and other graphics may be provided in a different font type and size providing they are legible. Section dividers, tabs, or similar means are recommended but are not counted as part of the recommended 25 page limit. These recommendations will be considered when evaluating the quality of proposal.

With the exception of the information to be supplied in the appendices, the "Expression of Interest" proposal should be divided into the following sections as listed below.

Consulting engineering firms (CONSULTANT) interested in providing these services may so indicate by furnishing the LPA (four (4) copies and one (1) CD or Flash Drive) of an Expression of Interest which should consist of the following unless specifically stated otherwise:

1. The Prime CONSULTANT should provide a cover letter specifying the name and complete description of the Contract, the name of the Prime CONSULTANT and any of its Subconsultant(s), the name of an individual who will be the single point of contact throughout the selection process, the name of the project manager, the location and address of the managing office, and the location and address of the office(s) that may be assigned the work. Should any Subconsultant(s) be listed as team members, identify the roles of each of the team's members. In addition, the CONSULTANT must note if this is a joint venture;

2. The CONSULTANT should provide a resume for each principal member, the project manager, project engineer and employee(s) of the firm anticipated to be assigned to the project. Also, provide a team organizational chart and list each person's experience and qualifications, including proof that the Project Engineer is licensed as a Mississippi Professional Engineer and that the firm has met state licensure and certification requirements\*\*. The team organizational chart should include each individual's name, job description (for the project), and company of employment. In addition, the CONSULTANT should provide proof that they have attended and received certification through MDOT for the Project Development Manual Training for Local Public Agencies;

3. The CONSULTANT should provide a description of similar type work completed during the past five (5) years which qualifies the consultant for this work. Provide a detailed description of the role of the consultant and define whether the CONSULTANT was the prime or a subconsultant. Include in the description the amount of the CONSULTANT's contract for the work they provided for the project, the date the CONSULTANT's project was initiated. The firm should provide contact information for each of the projects. This will include the name of the client and client's representative that can verify and discuss the project;

4. The CONSULTANT should provide a description of the team's approach to performing the CE&I services as referenced in this advertisement in an efficient manner. This description should identify the CONSULTANT's (and subconsultant's) resources and abilities in project operations, project management and describe how they will utilize their equipment, personnel, and other technical and procedural resources. The CONSULTANT should estimate the number of crews anticipated to perform the work and identify how they intend to break out their resources in an efficient manner to provide proper oversight, inspection, and testing services. In addition, the CONSULTANT should identify any unique company resources, procedures, and/or equipment which will benefit the CONSULTANT to efficiently oversee the PROJECT.

The CONSULTANT may request a copy of the draft version of the construction plans. CONSULTANTS interested in accessing these draft plans shall e-mail the LPA representatives below and request permissions to view the set of plans. The LPA will work with the CONSULTANT to provide viewing access.

The LPA hereby specifically makes no representation or warranty either expressed or implied, as to any matter whatsoever, by making these plans available. Further, the LPA makes no representations that these plans are exhaustive, complete, accurate or sufficient for construction of the PROJECT. By accessing these plans, CONSULTANTS are thereby consenting to keep these plans provided confidential.

5. The CONSULTANT should provide Part II of Standard Form (SF) 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications. If a firm has branch offices, complete the form for each specific branch office seeking work. In addition, this form should be completed for any subconsultants in the same manner. This form can be obtained at the following web-address:

[https://mdot.ms.gov/documents/Consultant%20Services/Forms/Standard%20Form%20\(SF\)%20330,%20Part%20II.pdf](https://mdot.ms.gov/documents/Consultant%20Services/Forms/Standard%20Form%20(SF)%20330,%20Part%20II.pdf)

The LPA will evaluate the Expressions of Interest based on the following factors listed in their relative order of importance:

1. Experience of the Firm in performing specific services and experience on similar LPA projects
2. Qualifications and experience of Staff to be assigned to the project based on requested scope of services
3. Size of the firm's professional and technical staff with respect to the services needed
4. Project Approach
5. Local Presence of the Firm

The LPA reserves the right to select one (1) consultant or select a short list of consultants from whom more information will be required. The LPA reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, discontinue Contract execution, and/or request additional information with any party at any time prior to final Contract execution.

The DBE goal is 0%.

The CONSULTANT should mark any and all pages of the proposal considered to be proprietary information which may remain confidential in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 (1972, as amended). Each page of the proposal that the CONSULTANT considers trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information should be on a different color paper than non-confidential pages and be marked in the upper right hand corner with the word "CONFIDENTIAL." Failure to clearly identify trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information will result in that information being released subject to a public records request.

To be considered, all replies must be received by the Office of the Municipal Clerk, at Jackson City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205, on or before 3:30 PM p.m. Tuesday, February 23, 2021. The Expressions of Interest should be submitted and marked on the outside as Woodrow Wilson Avenue (Mill Street to Martin Luther King, Jr Drive) CE&I Consultant Proposal.

Charles Williams, P.E., Ph.D., Director  
Department of Public Works  
City of Jackson

This Legal Notice will appear in the Clarion Ledger and Mississippi Link on January 14 and 21, 2021.

1-14-2021, 1-21-2021



Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

6	1			9	8			
3		7	4					
				1				7
		5		6	2	3		
	7		3				5	
2				5		8		
				1				4
		6					7	

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Cryptogram

A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence. We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.

Hint: Quote by Pablo Picasso

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
W																								

W L A X V W G Y F N C J U T Z W R V Z C I Z

C T W J J N R F N C J N M F T M R Z W R

C L W G X T W M J Z N V R N F N C R

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Sudoku Solution

6	1	4	7	9	8	3	2	5
8	5	9	1	2	3	7	4	6
3	2	7	4	6	5	9	1	8
9	6	3	5	1	2	4	8	7
4	8	5	9	7	6	2	3	1
1	7	2	3	8	4	6	5	9
2	4	1	6	5	7	8	9	3
7	9	8	2	3	1	5	6	4
5	3	6	8	4	9	1	7	2

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Cryptogram Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
W	D	I	F	T	O	U	Z	C	P	E	X	L	J	N	K	H	M	Y	R	B	A	V	O	G	S

I A M A L W A Y S D O I N G T H A T W H I C H

C W L X V W G Y F N C J U R Z W R V Z C I Z

I C A N N O T D O I N O R D E R T H A T

C T W J J N R F N C J N M F T M R Z W R

I M A Y L E A R N H O W T O D O I T

C L W G X T W M J Z N V R N F N C R

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Week of January 17, 2020



# 30th Annual MLK Jr. Prayer Celebration receives 2.1K virtual views

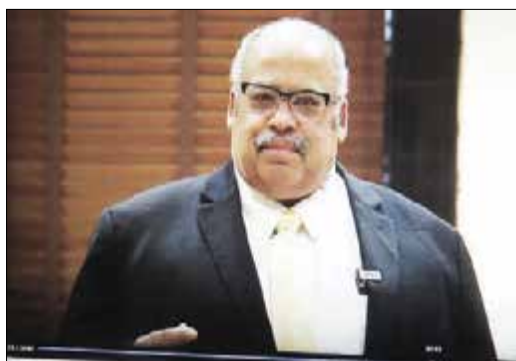
## *Hinds County Democratic Legislative Caucus determined not to allow the pandemic to stop it*



Arekia Bennett    PHOTOS BY GAIL M.H. BROWN



Barbara Harper, soloist



Earle Banks



Larry Johnson, Entergy



Rep. Bell



Rep. Brown



Rep. Clark



Rep. Crudup



Rep. Foster



Rep. Gibbs



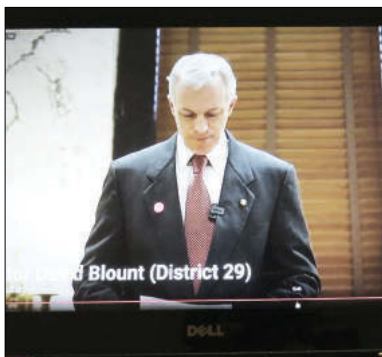
Rep. Stamps



Rep. Summers



Sen. Horhn



Sen. David Blount



Sen. Frazier



Sen. Norwood



Virtual MLK Breakfast image

By Gail M.H. Brown, Ph.D.  
Contributing Writer

By the end of the day, the first virtual Hinds County Democratic Legislative Caucus Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast celebration had received 2.1K views. Streamed on Facebook at 7:30 a.m. on MLK National Holiday, Jan. 18, the premier virtual event marked the caucus’s 30th year celebrating the life and legacy of the slain Drum Major for Justice and Freedom.

“We had done the event for 29 years, and we did not want to say that COVID stopped us from having our 30th Dr. Martin Luther King celebration,” Rep. Earle Banks told *The Mississippi Link* in a telephone interview following the streamed program. He noted that their late colleague Sen. Alice Hardin (D) first started coordinating it.

Banks, who chairs the Hinds County Democratic Legislative Caucus, said the planning and pre-production for the virtual event took more than two

weeks to complete. “Everyone worked hard together to do their part. He pointed out that traditionally with the in-person observances, they would have had areas ministers and pastors to do the various prayers. “Because we wanted to keep them safe during the pandemic, we did not ask them to come out. We decided to do the prayers ourselves,” Banks explained. “We hope next year, COVID will be gone, and we may return to holding our traditional prayer breakfast.”

He said people texted and called him all morning following the digital cast about how well they enjoyed the virtual MLK observance from the comfort of their homes.

Sen. Sollie Norwood, who “tag-teamed” with Banks and others in organizing this year’s event, said he had received many positive comments as well. “I received such reactions as: ‘uplifting,’ ‘so glad you all continued this even during the pandemic,’ and ‘Dr. King would not have had it any

other way,” Norwood said, recalling the comments.

The program included a call to worship/occasion, opening/closing prayers, greetings, the Dreamer’s Litany and specific prayers for the city, state and nation; our youth; peace; families; health; unity; the military; and our schools. The Black National Anthem,

“Lift Every Voice and Sing,” and popular freedom song, “We Shall Overcome,” were performed by the talented Barbara Harper, the MLK coordinator for the Caucus. “She does an outstanding job in helping us to pull it together,” said Banks, who served as Master of Ceremonies.

“Peace and security are at the forefront of our thoughts,” said Rep. Foster as she presented the occasion. She and other legislators briefly commented on how Dr. King’s work helped to positively change Mississippi. Dr. King often referenced Mississippi in his speeches. There is even a chapter on Mississippi called

“The Mississippi Challenge” in his book, *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.*, edited by Clayborne Carson.

In Sen. David Blount’s (Dist. 29) prayer for unity, he said: “We pray for leadership...Our country needs unity...In Your Kingdom, there are no political parties...Deliver us from this pandemic.”

Sen. Hillman T. Frazier (Dist. 27) prayed for “the children who have fallen because they have no safety net to catch them.” All participants prayed some much-needed prayers.

Both Banks and Norwood said the caucus is profoundly grateful to everyone who helped make the celebration a success: the videographer, the coordinator and especially the generous corporate sponsors: Entergy; Zeta Phi Beta, Inc. – Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, Jackson, Miss., Latisha M. Skinner, 25th president; Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance; and organization sponsors: Metro Jackson Section – National Council of Negro

Women; Hinds County Democratic Executive Committee; Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance; National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.; and Jackson Branch NAACP.

Monday’s Hinds County Democratic Legislature Caucus’s social media MLK celebration attracted former Mississippians and others from around the nation. Paulette Hayes Patton, a retired administrator of Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa., was among them. “As I have done for decades, I find a way to participate in MLK Day events,” she said. “I had to plan many as part of my job prior to retirement. When I received the invitation via Jean Frazier through my sister Gwen, I thought how empowering it would be to, virtually, stand in solidarity with my Jackson family and friends by watching the program during these unprecedented times.”

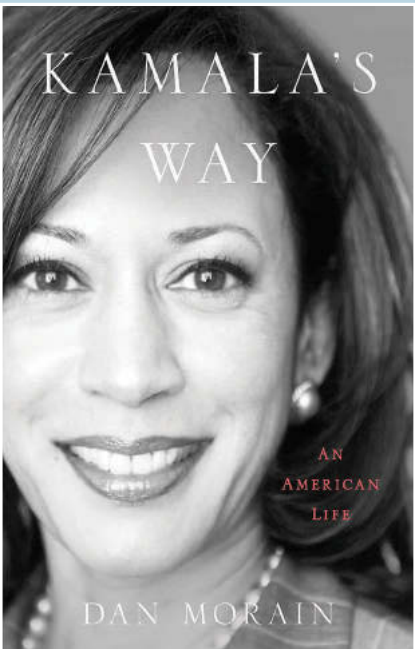
**Other area MLK Jr. Day celebrations**

Throughout the weekend

and Monday, universities, cities and organizations around the state found ways to use technology, improvise, and modify (due to the pandemic) their traditional observance of the life and legacy of Dr. King. The following is a list of some of those events:

- Jackson State University 53rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual Birthday Convocation, Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, 10 a.m. with keynote speaker David J. Dennis Jr., Civil Rights Veteran and Freedom Rider. (Live Streamed on Facebook.com) <https://www.facebook.com/Jsutv/videos/1043397839489465>
- Jackson MLK Jr. 2021 Celebration Motorcade instead of the traditional parade with bands and large crowds. The motorcade was held Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, at 10 a.m. This parade was organized by Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes.
- The MLK Jr. Wreath-Laying Ceremony, Freedom Corner, Jackson, Miss., Monday, Jan. 17, 2021, 10 a.m.





BOOK REVIEW:

KAMALA'S WAY:  
AN AMERICAN LIFE

BY DAN MORAIN

C.2021, SIMON & SCHUSTER

\$28.00 / \$37.00 CANADA • 259 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

One step at a time.  
That’s how you get anywhere: methodical, with purpose, one foot in front of the other until you get to where you’re going. You never waver. You never take shortcuts, side roads, or easy-outs, and as in “Kamala’s Way” by Dan Morain, you keep your eyes on the goal every minute of the journey.  
At this point in time, Kamala Harris almost needs no introduction.  
Much of what you need to

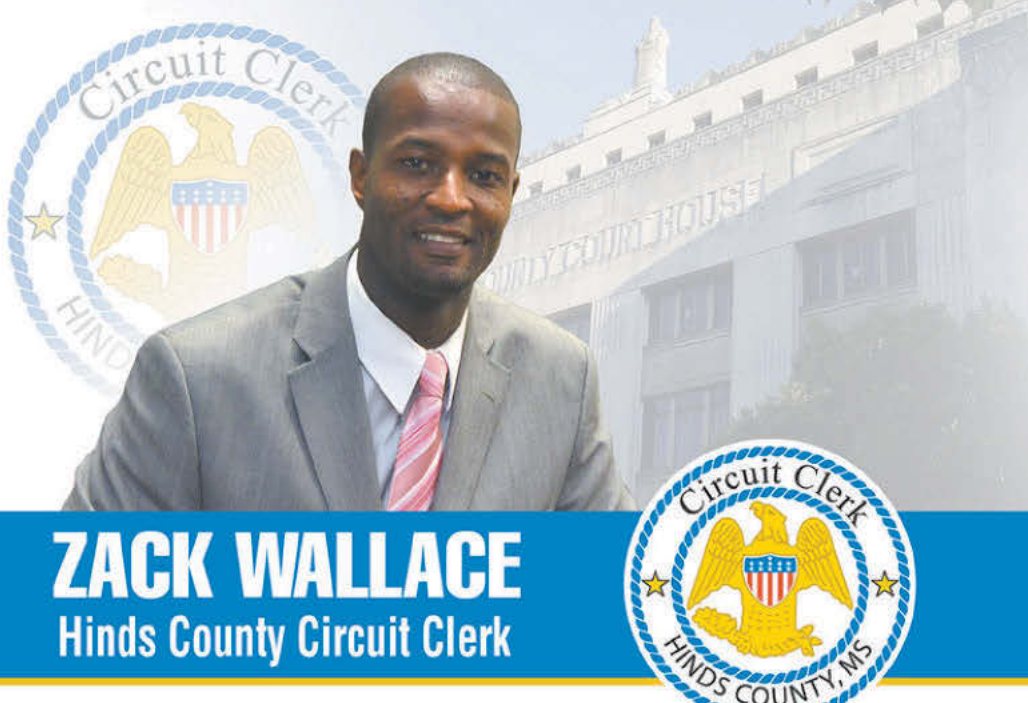
know is summed up in this: says Morain, she “misses little and forgets even less.” Still, a lot of things about her life were left out of her biography, “The Truths We Hold,” or ignored by most articles written about her.  
Much has been said about Harris’ mother but little has been said about her father, for example. Harris herself has said that they were “not close,” and Morain offers reasons why, as well as some background on Harris’ paternal side.  
Outside of California, Harris’ rise to political fame might

be perceived as meteoric, but the truth is that it took more than thirty years of focus. While studying at Howard University, Harris worked as an intern in Senator Alan Cranston’s office; after passing the California bar exam, she became deputy district attorney at the Alameda County District Attorney’s office and she got a peek at politics; she worked in “the hothouse of San Francisco criminal justice politics,” was later elected to the office once held by Cranston in the Senate, and is now in the second-highest position in


America. Along the way, as one can expect from a no-nonsense woman, there were controversies.  
Morain shares little-discussed details of Harris’ relationship with bigger-than-life Willie Brown, former mayor of San Francisco. He writes deeply of Harris’ vow not to call for the death penalty on any California inmate. He explains the strange tie between Harris and Kimberly Guilfoyle. And he writes of Harris, who gets things done and doesn’t “care that she had ruffled [someone’s] feelings.”

The first time you see “Kamala’s Way,” hold it in your hands, and think a minute. Did you read her biography “The Truths We Hold”? If so, then you’ve already read about thirty percent of this book; indeed, author Dan Morain liberally uses quotes from the bio. Is the other seventy percent – the parts you haven’t read – worth reading?  
Probably, yes, if you’re excited beyond measure to have Harris as vice president, because Morain gives details on Harris’ life that will be new to a good number of readers, especially

political outsiders and non-Californians. These are the things Harris herself has avoided discussing, but Morain hasn’t.  
They’re not all hot-button, though; in fact, Morain shares stories of Harris when the cameras are gone, and he does it in a way that’s not sensational or tabloid-ish. Instead, it’s thorough, honest, and a quick-to-read education about our new Second in Command; so if you think you don’t know much about her, add it to your Must-Read pile.  
Having “Kamala’s Way” is a great next step.



**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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# 28 black and Latino publishers selected to participate in the GNI Ad Transformation Lab

## The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Google News Initiative, in partnership with the Association of Alternative Newsmedia (AAN), the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP), and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), recently kicked off the GNI Ad Transformation Lab: a six month program to help black and Latino news publishers in the U.S. and Canada advance their advertising strategies and grow digital revenue. We're proud to announce the 28 organizations selected to participate in the program, which includes publishers from 14 states across the country.

The participating publications of the GNI Ad Transformation Lab include: Afro-American Newspapers, Al Día en América, Blavity News, The Cincinnati Herald, The Dallas Examiner, El Latino, The Houston Defender, Houston Forward Times, Impacto Latino, La Mega Media Cleveland, La Noticia, La Opinion, The Los Angeles Sentinel, Michigan Chronicle, The Mississippi Link, Noti Bomba, Post News Group, Our Weekly Los Angeles Newspaper, The Philadelphia Tribune, Precinct Reporter, Prensa Arizona, QCity Metro, The Sacramento Observer, The Seattle Medium, Texas Metro News, The Tri-State Defender,



Vida Newspaper and Westchester Hispano.

"The participating news organizations reflect the heartbeat of American journalism and play an important role in elevating diverse and trusted voices in communities across the country. We're grateful to play a part in equipping these publishers with new tools and strategies for digital business success, and look forward to sharing lessons with other news organiza-

tions via our GNI Digital Growth Program," says Ben Monnie, director, Global Partnerships Solutions at Google.

Over the course of the program, each publisher will receive coaching to address their organization's path to business growth, including improving digital publishing tools and advertising capabilities and developing new digital skill sets. Participating publishers will develop and clarify

their digital content and distribution strategy, optimize their websites, improve their digital advertising and programmatic capabilities, and act on these improvements to attract more advertisers and generate incremental revenue streams. The lab will also promote collaboration and shared learning across the cohort of publishers.

"The business environment is challenging, but especially

for those publishers who seek to adapt their business model by adopting new technologies," says Fanny Miller, president, NAHP. "For those publishers selected to participate in the GNI Ad Transformation Lab, we expect the experience will be transformational. At NAHP, we intend to multiply the value of their experience by extending it to other members."

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., presi-

dent and CEO of the NNPA, emphasized, "The GNI Ad Transformation Lab comes at a critical time across the United States where millions of readers of the Black Press of America are striving to receive news that is trusted and truthful. The NNPA is very pleased, therefore, to participate in this timely and much needed digital innovation opportunity afforded to a select group of NNPA member publishers."

As the program progresses, the partner organizations will share lessons learned with the broader community of black and Latino publishers. The GNI will also compile the best practices into playbooks, case studies and virtual workshops available for free through its ongoing Digital Growth Program.

"The Association of Alternative Newsmedia is proud to be a part of this effort and collaboration to improve the tech stacks and advertising opportunities for publishers in many of the same local communities that we serve," said John Heaston, president of the AAN board. "We look forward to communicating the best practices back to our own members and we're excited to work with black, Latino and locally-owned publishers across North America to ensure that vital local news organizations thrive."

## Hinds County School District Weekly Update

### ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### *HCS D Board recognizes School Teachers of the Year*



**Dr. Patsy Nash / Bolton / Bolton Edwards Elementary/ Middle School**



**Bonnie Florence-Gatlin / Byram Middle School**



**Theresa Y. Smith / Carver Middle School/ Life Skills Academy**



**Sallianne Campbell / Gary Road Elementary School**



**Pamela Garret / Gary Road Intermediate School**



**Kofi C. Woodall / Raymond Elementary School**



**Shaketta Franklin / Raymond High School**



**Elizabeth Foster / Terry High School**



**Lori Opiela / Utica Elementary/Middle School**

### *Hinds County School District teacher nominated for 2021 Mississippi Teacher of the Year*

Elizabeth Foster is a 12-grade teacher at THS where she has worked for the past 21 years of her 23 years in education. Foster stated that "I feel so honored to have been selected as Teacher of the Year at Terry. I have the deepest love and admiration for my colleagues and to think they thought of me in the selection process humbles me.

I work with some outstanding teachers, so I feel very blessed to have been selected for this honor.

I wake up every morning with the same mission, same mindset, and same purpose – to give my students everything I have every day so that they can reach every goal they set for themselves."



**Elizabeth Foster**

### *Hinds County School District announces its 2021 Administrator of the Year*

Dr. Smith has 14-½ years' experience in education total with 4-½ of those years in the HCS D as the principal of UEMS (B-Level School).

Dr. Smith said, "I am thankful and appreciative for the faculty, staff, students and the Utica community for embracing my leadership approach and supporting my vision for Utica Elementary Middle School. The teachers and staff are the real superstars because they are working to ensure that all students have the ability to grow as learners and progress socially.

"I would like to thank our school board, Superintendent Dr. Delesicia

Martin and the district's leadership team for giving us the operational flexibility to meet the specific needs of our school community. This has allowed us to target the specific needs of our students, which has pushed them past their academic goals.

"Dr. Martin has kept me grounded, focused and motivated to keep pushing forward, despite challenges that I have faced. I appreciate her teaching me to speak things into existence when we desire change or growth. I have used this same strategy with our students and teachers, and it has guided us to success".

Thank You All!!!!



**Dr. Will Smith, principal / Utica Elementary/Middle School**





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