

Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier, Wed. Jan 6, 2021 at the Capital in Washington. As Congress prepares to affirm President Elect Biden's victory, thousands of people have gathered to show their support for President Trump and his claims of election fraud.

AP PHOTO/JULIO CORTEZ



## Trump supporters storm US Capitol, clash with police

By Ben Fox, Ashraf Khalil and Michael Balsamo  
*The Associated Press*

Protesters supporting President Donald Trump violently clashed with law

enforcement Wednesday, sending the U.S. Capitol into chaos, locking the building down and halting the vote to certify Joe Biden's presidential victory. Dozens of people breached security

perimeters at the Capitol and lawmakers inside the House chamber were told to put on gas masks as tear gas was fired.

*Trump*  
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## Sharpton: Firing officer who killed Andre Hill is not enough



Karissa Hill, daughter of Andre' Hill, stands beside Attorney Ben Crump during a vigil being held for her father at Brentnell Community Recreation Center in Columbus. Ohio, Saturday

By Farnoush Amiri and Andrew Welsh-Huggins  
*Associated Press*

As light snow fell around the Ohio church Tuesday morning, Andre Hill's family, friends and strangers angry about his death — clad in their Sunday best and Black Lives Matter masks — walked in to honor his life.

Inside the church in Columbus, a photo of Hill, 47, surrounded by the faces of Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor and the other black people killed by authorities in recent years leaned against the stage next to his open casket. A white mark was taped on every other chair to facilitate social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

State Sen. Hearcel Craig greeted guests at the door.

The Democratic lawmaker is a minister at southwest Columbus' The Church of God, where Hill's service was taking place.

"This is the second time in three weeks I have been here to honor the life of a black man taken by this city's officials," Craig said.

The first was for the funeral of 23-year-old Casey Goodson Jr., who was killed by a Franklin County Sheriff's Office deputy Dec. 4.

Scarcely three weeks later, Columbus Police Officer Adam Coy can be seen in bodycam footage fatally shooting Hill early Dec. 22 as Hill emerged from a garage holding a cellphone in his left hand with his right

*Hill*  
*Continued on page 3*

## Warnock and Ossoff wins in Georgia have Biden and Democrats feeling 'peachy'

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Correspondent*

The racial awakening in the United States last year after the police killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd may have propelled a sweep for Democrats in the January 5, 2021 Georgia Senate runoffs, paving the way for President-elect Joe Biden to push his legislative agenda without fear of obstruction.

With about 3,000 absentee votes remaining outstanding from Chatham County as of early Wednesday morning, unofficial tallies indicate that both Democrats, Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, have defeated Republican incumbents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue.

If the unofficial results hold, Warnock will go to Washington as the first black Democratic senator from the South and Georgia's first African American senator.

Ossoff will also make history, arriving on Capitol Hill as the first Jewish senator from the Peach State.

With 98 percent of the results reported, Warnock defeated his opponent, 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent while Ossoff turned back Perdue 50.2 percent to 49.8 percent, according to CNN projections.

The razor-thin margins of victory by both Democrats would be summarized by veteran black journalist Roland Martin who has been reporting from Atlanta



Jon Ossoff, left and Raphael Warnock exchange elbow bumps during a campaign rally in Augusta, Ga., Monday, Jan. 4, 2021. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOLAHAN/THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE VIA AP

for the past month and posting to his podcast, "Roland Martin Unfiltered."

"We say it like it's just a passing thought but it's true, 'every vote counts,'" he said as Warnock's victory appeared imminent.

The projected wins also sent a resounding message from Georgia to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky): "You're fired!"

The victories mean that McConnell and the Republicans no longer control the Senate. It also puts an end to McConnell's moniker as "The Grim Reaper"

— a title indicating his propensity for ensuring that vital legislation passed by the House would routinely die in his "graveyard."

"Because this is America, the 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton went to the polls and picked her youngest son to be a United States senator," Warnock said, a reference to his mother made during a victory speech early Wednesday.

"I stand before you as a man who knows that the improbable journey that led me to this place in this historic moment in America could only happen here," he

added.

"What happened last night was stunning," Warnock said in his first interview Wednesday with CNN.

Warnock said he plans to return to his pulpit on Sunday morning.

"It's the people who teach you how to be an effective pastor... and an effective senator," he said. "I don't plan to become a politician."

He also said that he's proud of the people of the Georgia and his colleague Ossoff who was

*Peachy*  
*Continued on page 3*

## Devonta Smith wins Heisman Trophy

By Ralph D. Russo  
*The Associated Press*

On an Alabama team stacked with stars, DeVonta Smith emerged as the best player in college football while playing a position that rarely gets that kind of recognition.

Smith became the first wide receiver to win the Heisman Trophy in 29 seasons Tuesday night, breaking the monopoly quarterbacks have had on the award by beating out three of them.

"Just to be one of the very few that played receiver to win the Heisman, it means a lot to me," Smith said.

Smith finished with 447 first-place votes and 1,856 points to easily outdistance Clemson's Trevor Lawrence (222,

1,187), Alabama teammate Mac Jones (138, 1,130) and Florida's Kyle Trask (61, 737).

Crimson Tide running back Najee Harris finished fifth in the voting, making No. 1 Alabama the second team in the 85-year history of the Heisman to have three of the top five vote-getters. Army did it in 1946 with Glenn Davis (first), Doc Blanchard (fourth) and Arnold Tucker (fifth).

"I want to thank my teammates," Smith said during his acceptance speech. "With team success comes individual success so without you all, I wouldn't be where I'm at today, winning this award."

Smith is just the fourth receiver to win

the Heisman, joining Michigan's Desmond Howard in 1991, Notre Dame's Tim Brown in 1987 and Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers in 1972.

Quarterbacks had won 17 of the previous 20 Heisman trophies, including the last four.

Smith was presented the award in a virtual ceremony orchestrated by ESPN. The usual trip to New York for the finalists was called off because of the pandemic and the winner was announced later than it had ever been before.

Smith accepted the trophy in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, decked out in a deep crimson jacket and shiny black bow tie.

*Heisman*  
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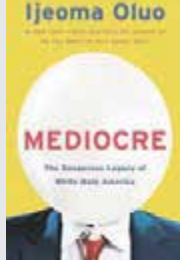


Smith

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# Firefighters and the MS Coalition for Economic Empowerment climax Kwanzaa celebration

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent  
Contributing Writer

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture that is held from Dec. 6-Jan. 1. Based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of Africa, Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in California in 1966. The Black Firefighters LLD and the MS Coalition for Economic Empowerment joined forces and celebrated the last day of Kwanzaa at the African Art Gallery (800 N. Farish St. in Jackson) January 1 at 7 p.m. The Facebook Live event attracted 498 viewers.

Firefighters LLD's motto is "Keep the fire burning for justice." It was organized in 1986 as a result of blacks who were discriminated against. Firefighters learned that an international organization was in existence. Five blacks drove to Dallas, TX and joined the organization.

Fire Chief Willie Owens voiced a recollection that white administrators continued to promote white firefighters based on seniority which hindered blacks from promotion. A federal descent decree was issued to force the Jackson Fire Department to promote black firefighters.

"[Since] we filed a suit in 1988, the Jackson Fire Department has increased to 90% black," Owens



Lukata

said. Coordinator Asinia Baba Lukata maintained that MS Coalition for Economic Empowerment has been celebrating Kwanzaa for the last three decades. Lukata arrived in Jackson in 1990. "The first thing I did was go job hunting. I ran into William Brown and Bill Griffin in Virden Addition. We decided to bring culture to Jackson. There were clubs that celebrated events. But we chose to bring those groups to the community," he said. Thus, organizations such as Adiambo School, Jackson Islamic Community and Women for Progress have been celebrating Kwanzaa, "a program to expose

our people to new values," according to Lukata. Host Eddie James explained that "the first of every year Firefighters Limited LLD does a Kwanzaa celebration as a positive expression for the community." Kwanzaa entails 7 principles: (1) Umoja – Unity in family, community, nation and race); (2) Kijichagulia – Self-determination of African Americans to define, name and speak for themselves; (3) Ujima – Collective work and responsibility to build and maintain community togetherness by embracing and solving problems of African Americans within the community; (4) Uja-



Odems (R) receives award from Chief Owens



Robinson

maa – Cooperative economics to build, maintain and profit from African American owned and operated businesses; (5) Nia – Purpose to restore African Americans to their traditional greatness in building and developing the community; (6) Kuumba – Creativity to strive diligently to make the African American community more beautiful than it was prior to its inheritance; and (7) Imani – Faith in African American people, teachers and leaders in the righteous and victorious struggle. Accentuated for the gathering was the 7th principle Imani. "I have faith in my community. It's the substance of things hoped

for," swanked featured guest speaker and community activist Ada Robinson. Robinson advanced her remark with, "Tonight we can come together and celebrate and have enough faith in our communities to study and learn what our ancestors had in common." "We have faith that the seven principles will carry us through. I have faith that children can learn from me. The faith that our ancestors had in themselves extended to us. So we have faith in family. We have faith in love," she continued. Prior to leading the audience in James Weldon Johnson's Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing, Kourtney

Bell indicated that blacks had come "through a lot of pain." She encouraged them to learn the African pledge "which promotes love, work, self-reliance, beautification of the homeland, free and self-determined African people." Awards were presented to top ranked citizens of the Jackson Metro area. Firefighters Craig Odems and Otto Love survived gun violence and were honored because of their strength and ability to return to work. Odems received the award for Love who was out of town with his family. For further information contact Eddie James at 601-940-2540 or Asinia Baba Lukata at 859 953-4234.

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## Peachy

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mentored by the late Rep. John Lewis.

The election, which shifted in favor of Democrats after votes were counted late Tuesday from heavily black-populated DeKalb County, proved karma symbolic for some.

Following a near-decade war against the Voting Rights Act and the undisputable suppression of hundreds of thousands – if not millions – of African American Democratic votes, Republicans lost the White House and the Senate, in large part, because traditional red states like Georgia flipped.

Democrats also count as the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Warnock, 50, the senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached and served as pastor, will serve for a two-year term in a seat which became vacant after former GOP Sen. Johnny Isakson retired early.

Ossoff, 33, who owns a production company that makes documentaries, ended the hopes of the 77-year-old Perdue for a second six-year term.

Both elections required runoffs after no candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote in November’s general election.

More than three million Georgia residents flocked to the polls before Tuesday’s runoffs, contributing to an historic voter turnout for a runoff election.

Each of the four candidates received more than two million votes in the tight contests.

The election came as Trump continued to ramp up unsubstantiated claims of election fraud in the state.

In Fulton County, election workers reportedly faced death threats and racial slurs.

County Director of Elections Richard Barron said an unidentified man made a bomb threat against the county, prompting a visit to the individual’s home by the FBI.

“The person said that the Nashville bombing was a practice run for what we would see today at one of our polling places,” Barron said.

“Several” county staffers also received death threats, Barron said.

“And we have had innumerable racial slurs thrown at our staff, mostly via phone but some on social media as well, and that’s been a really disappointing – just disconcerting turn of events,” he said.

Barron added that the President’s claims of voter fraud have not helped.

Late Tuesday night, Twitter flagged a post by the President as a “disinformation alert.”

In the tweet in which Twitter administrators inserted a strike-through line and stamped as disinformation, Trump wrote, “Looks like they are setting up a big ‘voter dump’ against the Republican candidates. Waiting to see how many votes they need.”

The President posted the tweet as votes in heavily populated African American locations like DeKalb County were being tabulated and reported.

“When I moved to Georgia 19 years ago, Roy Barnes, the last Democratic governor, was about to be tossed out for opposing the Confederate flag,” tweeted Jelani Cobb, a staff writer with The New Yorker and a professor at Columbia University.

“The fact that the state is now close to being represented by a black man and a Jew in the U.S. Senate is stunning.”

Warnock, during his CNN interview Wednesday morning, when asked about the improbability of his victory, ended his remarks with the following:

“In America, anything is possible.”

*Washington Informer Editor D. Kevin McNeir contributed to this report.*

## Trump

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in the Rotunda.

A chaplain prayed as police guarded the doors to the chamber and lawmakers tried to gather information about what was happening.

An announcement was played inside the Capitol as lawmakers were meeting and expected to vote to affirm Biden’s victory. Due to an “external security threat,” no one could enter or exit the Capitol complex, the recording said.

Both chambers abruptly went into recess. The District of Columbia’s Mayor, Muriel Bowser, issued a curfew for 6 p.m.

The skirmishes occurred outside in the very spot where president-elect Biden will be inaugurated in just two weeks.

Protesters tore down metal barricades at the bottom of the Capitol’s steps and were met by officers in riot gear. Some tried to push past the officers who held shields and officers could be seen firing pepper spray into the crowd to keep them back. Some in the crowd were shouting “traitors” as officers tried to keep them back.

## Hill

Continued from page 1

hand obscured. He was visiting a family friend at the time.

The Rev. Al Sharpton delivered Hill’s eulogy, saluting Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther and other city officials for ordering the firing of Coy less than a week after he shot Hill. But he said it’s not enough.

“We cannot have a precedent that if you kill us, you just lose your job and keep living your life as you were,” Sharpton told mourners.

Hill’s daughter, Karissa Hill, broke down in tears while speaking about her father on stage.

“He was my gentle giant. He was my best friend,” she said. “We had a special bond that nobody understood.”

A city council member introduced a resolution called Andre’s Law that would ensure Columbus police officers use their body cameras accurately by turning them on before shootings take place and to give victims aid within an appropriate timeframe.

“Being black in America gives us cause to be cynical, and we must say enough is enough,” Shannon Hardin, the Democratic chair of the Columbus City Council, said at the beginning of Hill’s service.

Ginther, U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty, state Rep. Erica Crawley were among a number of lawmakers and leaders in attendance.

Beatty, a Columbus Democrat and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, noted that Hill died wearing a Black Lives Matter

## Heisman

Continued from page 1

He got a big hug from his quarterback, who told Smith that he loved and was proud of him. Then Smith held back tears during his speech, recalling how many thought he was too small to become a football star.

“To all the young kids out there that’s not the biggest, not the strongest, just keep pushing. Because I’m not the biggest. I’ve been doubted a lot because of my size and, really, it’s just comes down to you just put your mind to it, no job’s too big,” said the 6-foot-1, 175-pound Smith.

Meanwhile, his parents watched from a community center in his hometown of Amite, Louisiana, where a socially distanced watch party was held.

“We love him. Everybody here is supporting him, we’re so proud of him. Continue being humble. Let God lead him. And we are here to support him every step of the way,” Smith’s mother, Christina Smith-Sylve, said to ESPN.

Smith is the third Alabama player to win the Heisman, all since 2009. Like Tide running backs Mark Ingram (’09) and Derrick Henry (2015), Smith will play for the national championship as a Heisman winner.

Alabama faces No. 3 Ohio State on Jan. 11 in the College Football Playoff title game in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Smith said he returned for his senior season to earn his degree and win a national title.

“I checked one of those boxes. Just trying to check the other one now,” Smith said during his Zoom news conference.

The Heisman voting was complete on Dec. 21, so playoff performances were not a factor. But Smith made those who supported him feel good about it with a brilliant three-touchdown game against Notre Dame in the CFP semifinals last weekend.

Smith has 105 catches for 1,641 yards and 22 total touchdowns going into the final game of his college career – which will also be his third national championship game.

Smith carved out a place in Alabama’s storied history as a fresh-

shirt, which she called a symbol of resistance against excessive police force.

“His death will not merely be a rallying cry at protests. His death will not be in vain. His memory will not be forgotten,” Beatty said. “Instead his life will be celebrated as a call for justice, his legacy upheld by all.”

In the moments after Hill was fatally shot, additional bodycam footage shows two other Columbus officers rolled Hill over and put handcuffs on him before leaving him alone again. None of them, according to the footage released Thursday, offered any first aid even though Hill was barely moving, groaning and bleeding while laying on the garage floor.

Coy, who had a long history of complaints from citizens, was fired Dec. 28 for failing to activate his body camera before the confrontation and for not providing medical aid to Hill.

Beyond an internal Columbus police department investigation, Ohio’s attorney general, the U.S. attorney for central Ohio and the FBI have begun their own probes into the shooting.

*Farnoush Amiri is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.*

man, catching the winning touchdown pass from Tua Tagovailoa on second-and-26 in overtime against Georgia to give the Tide the 2017 national championship.

The story of the game was the guy who threw the walk-off TD pass. Tagovailoa became Alabama’s Heisman contender and most beloved player for the next two years.

Smith was the overlooked star in the Tide’s talented 2017 class of receivers that included All-American Jerry Jeudy and the blazingly fast Henry Ruggs. Both of those players decided to skip their senior seasons and enter the draft last year. Both were selected in the first round.

“I kind of like being out of the way and not in the mix,” Smith said. “I’m not the most vocal person. I don’t like talking that much. It was enjoyable while it lasted.”

He returned to school to form an explosive combination for the Tide with junior Jaylen Waddle. Then Waddle went down with a season-ending leg injury on Oct. 24.

As the Tide’s undisputed No. 1 receiver, Smith shined. The week after Waddle went out, Smith had 11 catches for 204 yards and four touchdowns against Mississippi State.

Smith’s soaring one-handed TD grab against LSU was not just his signature play, but one of the 2020 season’s best.

A former four-star recruit, Smith came to Tuscaloosa from LSU’s backyard, disappointing many Tigers’ fans in his hometown.

The understated Smith quietly led the Tide in receptions and yards last year as a junior and became a second-team All-American.

Smitty – as teammates and coaches call him – didn’t emerge as a Heisman contender this season until Waddle went down.

And then he took off.

Starting with that Mississippi State game, Smith went on a four-game tear with 35 catches for 749 yards and 11 touchdowns that earned him another nickname: Slim Reaper.

Whatever you want to call Smith, he’s been quite a catch for Alabama.

# Mississippi man, charged in neighbor’s death, is out of jail

*The Associated Press*

An 18-year-old Mississippi man who is charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of his neighbor was released from a county jail Monday after being held several days without bond.

DeShawn Xavien Douglas was back home with family, according to his attorney, Scott Gilbert. Gilbert said the charge against Douglas has not been dropped, but “we will continue to investigate the case, and we look forward to bringing the case to a favorable resolution in the near future.”

Gilbert said Douglas acted in self-defense during a Dec. 28 conflict with Christopher Miln, 54. The conflict happened in a neighborhood near the Ross Barnett Reservoir in Rankin



Douglas

County, and another neighbor caught some of it on video.

WLBT-TV reported that people stood outside the Rankin County Courthouse Monday to protest Douglas’ arrest, charge and incarceration.

“I drove all the way from Texas to be here to stand in solidarity on behalf of his family and on behalf of him. I’m here. I want justice and freedom for DeShawn Douglas,” said Selena Charles, who held signs

with another protester. “He was gruesomely attacked.”

Mississippi law says a killing can only be considered first-degree murder when it’s done by deliberate design or when it’s done while in commission of certain felonies.

There is no evidence released to the public to indicate Douglas had planned to kill Miln. But Gilbert said there was evidence that Miln had previously tried to get violent with Douglas.

In October, Gilbert said Douglas filed charges against Miln for assault after saying Miln threatened to attack him with a shovel. In early December, a judge ordered Miln not to have contact with Douglas.

A neighbor’s Dec. 28 cell-phone video showed Miln try-

ing to antagonize Douglas, even saying “I am on your property” to the teenager. Eventually that confrontation turned violent, Gilbert said, with Miln grabbing Douglas from behind and trying to strangle him. It’s after that attempt that Douglas broke free and shot him four times, according to investigators.

WLBT reported that Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey and the Rankin County District Attorney, Bubba Bramlett, each declined to be interviewed about the case.

Miln’s wife, Donna, told WAPT-TV last week that regardless of the differences between the two, it did not have to end in gunfire. Christopher Miln died after being taken to the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



# Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. focused awareness on HIV/AIDS with free health screenings, virtual Webinar and downtown Jackson motorcade

*Special to The Mississippi Link*

The Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter (JMAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. recently brought attention to the AIDS epidemic in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic with a webinar and a motorcade of service groups centered around the theme: “Deltas on a Mission to end an Epidemic during a Global Pandemic.”

JMAC President Gwendolyn Handy said the sorority chose to shine light on an epidemic that has been overshadowed by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. “We wanted to make sure that the word got out to our surrounding communities on the effect COVID-19 has on the underlying health issues of AIDS, Handy said. “Statistic show that African Americans are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in Mississippi and the U.S. Black women are impacted at a higher rate than white women.”

She added: “Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter wanted to impact the Metro Jackson community during World AIDS Day because it was and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from AIDS related illness.”

Activities included free health screenings, a virtual webinar with a panel of health experts and a “motorcade” of awareness through downtown Jackson. The virtual WEBINAR Town Hall featured Maude Monger, CEO for The Sister Project, MLM Center for Health Education and CBA manager for My Brother’s Keeper, Inc. and her team of HIV experts. Other panelists included: Linda Dixon, Esq., MCJ Health Law director; Shanell McGoy, director, Corporate Social Responsibility at Gilead Sciences; and Willie Tobias Jr., senior pastor at New Mount Zion MB Church.

Healthcare providers, other Greek-letter organizations, churches and various community groups were part of a Motorcade of Awareness that made its way through downtown Jackson to remember victims of AIDS/HIV, honor caregivers and increase awareness concerning these health issues.

Free health screenings and information was provided by Dr. June Gibson at Open Arms Healthcare Center. Deja Abdul-Haqq provided a mobile unit from My Brother’s Keeper for on-site additional screenings. The Beta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., provided free lunch for individuals that got tested.



Members of Jackson (MS) Alumnae on the steps of the State Capitol as part of the International Awareness effort



A panel of health experts and advocates discuss the AIDS/HIV epidemic via a virtual webinar Town Hall.



Motorcade line-up included participants from agencies and groups concerned about an HIV/AIDS epidemic during the COVID-19 pandemic.



JMAC President Gwendolyn Handy is interviewed by local media about the AIDS/HIV Awareness event.



JMAC Motorcade.



JMAC's LEAD program represented in motorcade.



Jasmine and JMAC President Gwendolyn Handy.



JMAC International Awareness Chair Joan Course-Lewis and Denise Lewis at the motorcade line-up



JMAC members Kenya Washington and Valerie Coleman wear masks at the motorcade.



JMAC members Ebony Fletcher, Trina Washington and Valerie Coleman at the motorcade



JMAC members Ebony Fletcher, Trina Washington and Valerie Coleman at the motorcade



## Mississippi Legislature commences 2021 session amid surge



A box containing a new umbrella is placed on each lawmaker's seat in the House during the first day of the 2021 Mississippi Legislature, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, in Jackson, Miss. AP

Mississippi Link Newswire

Mississippi legislators have started their three-month session during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic in the state.

The 174-member body met on Tuesday for the first time since concluding last year's business in the fall. The 2020 session was extended several times as lawmakers worked to distribute federal money to agencies fighting the pandemic.

A major topic this year will be how to continue to provide relief to the state during the pandemic as numbers of new cases and hospitalizations continue to rise.

Dozens of Mississippi legislators, including Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and House Speaker Philip Gunn, tested positive for the coronavirus during the summer during last year's legislative session. Several were hospitalized.

Hosemann said last week that he thinks the Legislature should delay handling most business until March and only handle a few pressing matters this week.

Under the current schedule, the session is supposed to end April 4.

## 2021 For My People awards sponsored by AARP Mississippi

Mississippi Link Newswire

At 6 p.m. Thursday, January 14, 2021, the Margaret Walker Center will host, via its Facebook page, its 26th annual For My People Awards, sponsored by AARP Mississippi.

This year's awards ceremony will feature three recipients in a virtual conversation, *A Movement: The Past to the Present*.

For their contributions to African American history and culture, Dave Dennis Sr., and Doris Derby, legendary civil and human rights activists, will be honored along with David Dennis, Jr., an activist, scholar, and son of Dennis, Sr. The For My People Awards are named after Margaret Walker's classic poem, and past recipients have included James Meredith, Unita Blackwell, Robert Clark, Lerone Bennett, Andrew Young, Reena Evers-Everette and Charlayne Hunter-Gault.

David J. (Dave) Dennis Sr. interrupted his collegiate experience during his freshman year at Dillard University in New Orleans to work in the civil rights movement in 1961 and he was arrested over 30 times in relation to his activities. He was on the first bus of the Freedom Rides from Montgomery, AL, to Jackson in 1961, and he served in both states as field secretary for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

In Mississippi, he was a co-director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) and of the effort to organize Freedom Summer in 1964. Working closely with Mickey Schwerner and James Chaney, who were murdered along with Andrew Goodman as Freedom Summer began, Dennis spoke at Chaney's funeral, delivering a powerful and long-remembered eulogy.



Margaret Walker Center  
presents  
26th Annual For My People Awards  
**A MOVEMENT: THE PAST TO THE PRESENT**  
Virtual Conversation  
with legendary activists, artists, and scholars  
**Dave Dennis, Doris Derby, David Dennis Jr**  
moderated by Lance Wheeler  
**6 PM, THURS, JAN 14, 2021**  
**FACEBOOK: @MARGARETWALKERCENTER**  
**Sponsored by AARP Mississippi**

He returned to Dillard University, where he graduated in 1968. Continuing his education, he left for law school at the University of Michigan and graduated in 1971. Dennis joined Bob Moses – a fellow veteran of the civil rights movement – at the Algebra Project in 1991. Since then, Dennis and Moses have pursued “quality education as a constitutional right.”

Doris A. Derby is an administrator, professor, documentary photographer, speaker and author who earned her Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in New York, and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Illinois. She was one of the organizers of the March on Washington in 1963. Derby joined the civil rights movement in Mississippi, where she spent ten years

(1962-1972), working with grass-roots organizers in black communities to impact societal change. From 1990 until her retirement in 2012, Derby was Georgia State University's founding Director of African American Student Services and Programs and an adjunct associate professor in the Anthropology Department. As a photographer, her images have been featured globally in numerous museums, galleries, universities and websites.

David Dennis Jr., is a writer and author of the forthcoming book *The Movement Made Us* (Harper), a father-son dialogue that will explore in part the elder Dennis's life behind the scenes of the civil rights movement. His work has appeared in the *Guardian*, the *Washington Post*, *Playboy*, the *Atlantic*, and other outlets. He is Professor of Journalism and Social Justice at Morehouse College and is a product of Jackson Public Schools. Dennis Jr., will be the first recipient of the Margaret Walker Center's For My People – Doris Derby Legacy Award. Derby made a lifelong commitment to defending human rights and training new generations under her tutelage as an activist, scholar, artist and educator. The award honors descendants of activists who continue the traditions of the social justice movements of the 1950s and 1960s.

Moderating the panel discussion will be Lance Wheeler, education and public relations manager for the Margaret Walker Center.

Contact the Margaret Walker Center for more information and watch the 2021 AARP Mississippi For My People Awards at [www.facebook.com/margaretwalkercenter](http://www.facebook.com/margaretwalkercenter).

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# Mississippi State legislators voted to adopt the new state flag

By Edelia Dr. Jay Carthan  
Contributing Writer

Mississippi State legislators voted to officially adopt the new state flag. Because of the 1890 State Constitution, the process to adopt the new state flag is quite lengthy.

Mississippi legislators must put a description of the new flag into state law. The House voted Tuesday 119-1 to adopt the new flag at the top of the 2021 legislative session. The only “no” vote came from Republican Rep. Steve Horne of Meridian. He was also one of the 23 House members who voted against retiring the Confederate flag last summer.

The Mississippi Senate voted Wednesday to approve the new state flag, and Governor Tate Reeves is expected to sign the bill into law to officially adopt the new state flag.

The new state flag was approved by state referendum November 3 after the Legislators voted to retire the old Confederate flag in late June. They formed the commission to redesign the Mississippi State Flag who accepted ideas for a new state flag from the public and three finalists were selected but the white magnolia flower and the phrase “In God We Trust” on a red field with a gold-bordered blue pale won the design for the new state flag.

“This is a very historic day, a very joyful day for the folks of Mississippi. This has been a long struggle over the years,” Senator Hillman Frazier told reporters at the Capitol. “When I was first elected back in 1980, this was the priority of the Black Caucus. The bill died in committee year after year but this summer because of a perfect storm, because of COVID,

social justice, because of members speaking to each other and seeing each other’s hearts, did the right thing by retiring the old flag and adopting a new one.”

“I am ecstatic that my first official vote as a state representative is for a new state flag. We are off to a great start,” said Representative DeKeither Stamps.

“This new flag boldly declares our trust in God, as a state,” Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn said Tuesday. “As we enter into a new year, a new session, may God bless our efforts and may God bless the state of Mississippi as we set sail under this new flag.”

Mississippi legislators voted June 30, 2020 to retire the state flag that included the Confederate battle emblem. Designed by William Porcher Miles, the flag widely known as the “Confederate flag,” was adopted as a battle flag by the Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee. It is also known as the rebel flag, dixie flag and the Southern Cross and was used by the Ku Klux Klan to terrorize black people, but now it is in the Civil Rights Museum where it belongs.

The Republican led 2021 Legislative session convened January 5 and is set to adjourn in March. Republicans occupy 36 Senate seats while Democrats hold only 16, (52 total), and in the House, Republicans occupy 75 seats to the Democrats 46 (122 total).

Mississippi State Legislature is also responsible for redistricting following the 2020 census. Legislators are expected to address redistricting as part of the 2021 legislative session.

# Miss. announces vaccine rollout for those over 65

By Leah Willingham  
Associated Press

Officials in Mississippi announced a plan Monday to streamline access to coronavirus vaccines for vulnerable populations in the coming weeks. The news comes as the U.S. government officials reported a major acceleration of the vaccine rollout over the weekend after a slow and uneven start to the campaign.

“We want to make sure that as many doses as we get this week, we’re getting that many shots in arms,” Gov. Tate Reeves said during a news conference. “It doesn’t do us any good if it’s sitting on the shelf.”

The Republican governor said Monday that people over the age of 75 will have access to the vaccine, beginning next week, at private clinics and drive-through sites. The week after, those over 65 will become eligible for the vaccine.

“We know that we cannot afford delays in protecting those who are at the greatest risk,” Reeves said. “We must focus on saving lives.”

The Department of Health has 18 high-volume drive-through sites prepared for the vaccine rollout. Approximately 174 private clinics have also requested vaccines, State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs said. He did not immediately release the names of the 174 clinics.

Mississippi in mid-December received its first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and a similar one made by Moderna. Reeves said 163,750 doses have been distributed to Mississippi as of late last week. Close to 80,000 are designated for long-term care facilities through a partnership with the federal government, CVS and Walgreens pharmacies.

As of late last week, 1,105 of those doses had been distributed, Reeves said. Mississippi’s health care providers have been shipped 85,750 doses,



Reeves AP PHOTO

21,653 of which had been administered as of last week.

As of Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that nearly 4.6 million shots have been dispensed in the U.S.

Dobbs said the acceleration of the vaccine rollout comes as health officials expect the surge in Mississippi’s already overwhelmed health care system to continue.

“We do strongly anticipate another surge following the holidays,” Dobbs said. “It’s kind of been a recurring theme.”

Reeves said it’s time to start giving as many people the vaccine as possible instead of being slowed by having officials overanalyze who should receive the vaccines first.

“In my mind, part of the reason for the holdups has been the CDC decision to hold back and focus on who should be getting the vaccine and who should get it first,” he said. “We need

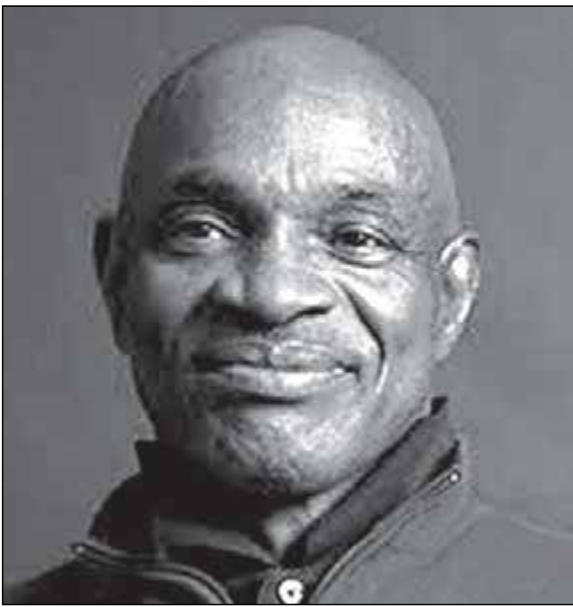
to move fast and we need to get it out there. We don’t need to analyze and prioritize for months and months and months on end.”

Mississippi, with a population of about 3 million, has reported at least 4,884 deaths from COVID-19 as of Sunday evening. There have been at least 223,677 total cases of coronavirus since the start of the pandemic, the Health Department said.

That’s an increase of 1,616 cases and 13 deaths from numbers reported the day before. Three deaths occurred between Dec. 30 and Saturday. Ten deaths occurred between Dec. 6 and Dec. 28 and were reported later using death certificates.

Leah Willingham is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

# Eddie Payton’s museum of memories



Payton

By Taylor Curet  
Associated Press

Eddie Payton sits in his office inside his Jackson home. An office that, these days, better resembles a museum.

As he scours cardboard boxes and flips through old photo albums, memories of his playing days rush back – including the night he returned a kickoff 99-yards for a touchdown as a Minnesota Viking.

“This kid sent me a nickel and he said this nickel’s going to bring you luck so I put it in my sock,” Payton said. “And the night I returned that kickoff 99 yards, I had the nickel in my sock. That was a good run.”

Few can tell a better story than Payton.

But when those stories fade from the memory bank, the pictures, plaques and paraphernalia will help serve as a reminder of what once was.

“I’m just a collector,” Payton said. “I’m not a hoarder. I might be messy but I’m not a hoarder.”

“I tell people I played with four different presidents. They say, ‘No you didn’t.’ I say here’s one with (Bill) Clinton. He’s a good guy, not that good of a golfer.”

Even Payton couldn’t dream up what was in store for him when it was time to leave Hendricks Street in Columbia, MS for four years of football at Jackson State and an-

other five in the National Football League.

His brother Walter Payton – who at one time held NFL records for career rushing yards (16,726) and touchdowns (110) – was alongside him the whole way.

“A guy asked me, ‘How does it feel to be the brother of a superstar?’” Payton said. “I told him what you need to do is call Chicago (Bears) and ask Walter.”

For all the plays the two brothers made on the field, their best memories came after the game when two kids from Columbia could say hello to their mother Alyne.

“The first half she was on Chicago’s side and then the second half she came around and sat on

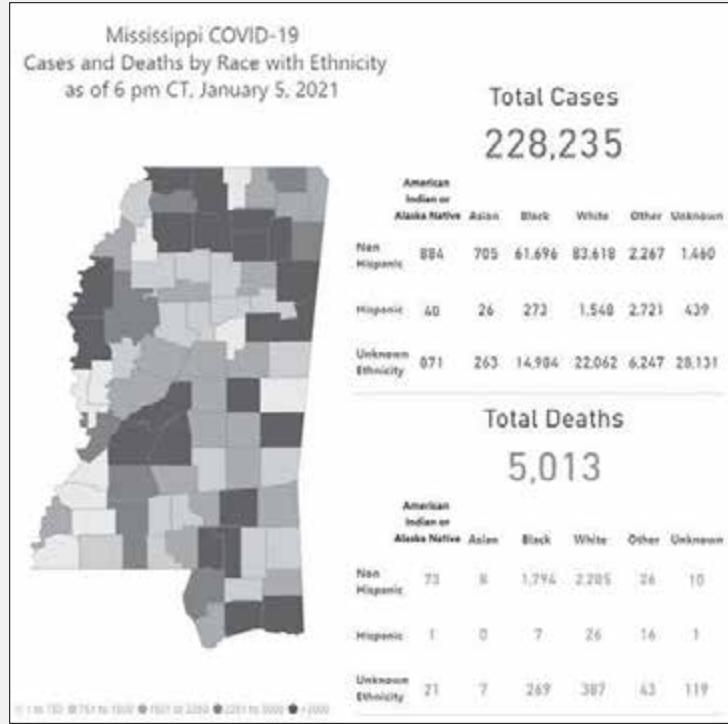
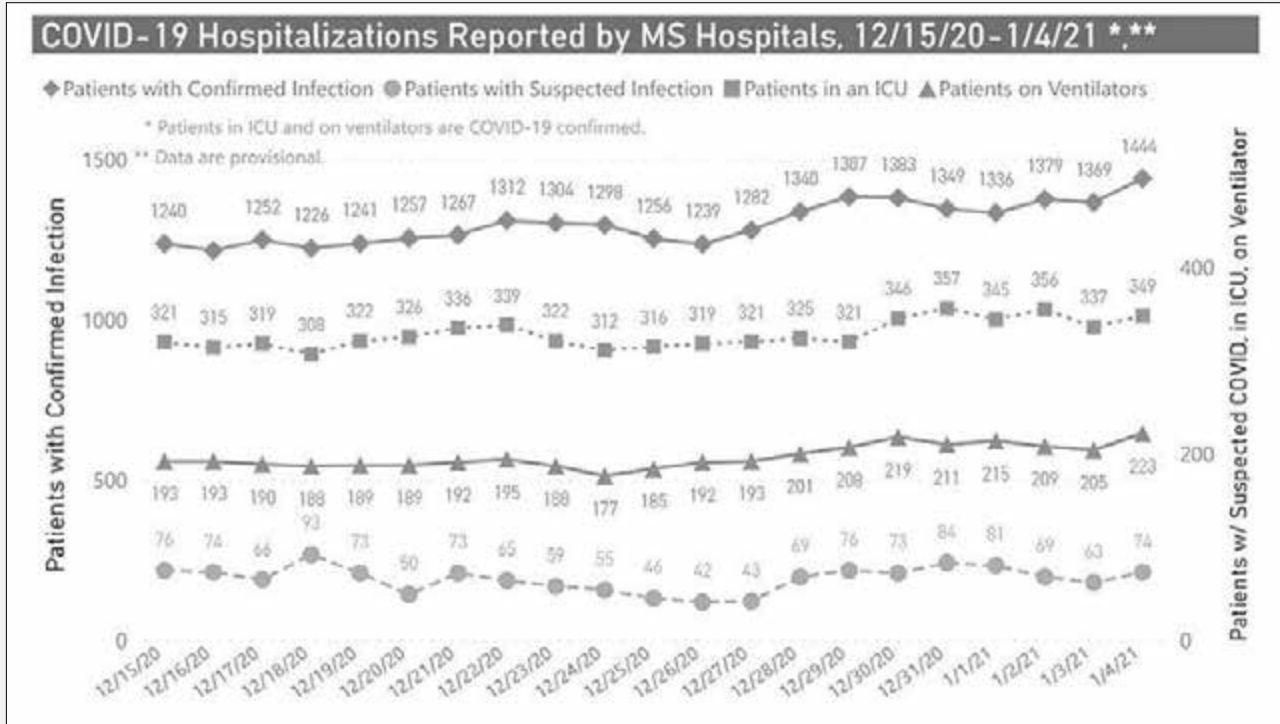
the Detroit (Lions) side,” Payton said. “And the smile on her face, you just can’t put a price on.”

Of course, Payton can’t really forget all those football games he played. His knees won’t allow him.

But he certainly wishes he were reliving those moments with Walter, who’s no doubt smiling from above.

“I always can look at Walter and the things he did, the pictures I have of him and put a smile on my face,” Payton said. “When you can reference something that puts a smile on your face, that person is never gone. If they passed on or they moved on, they’re never gone because you can look and it takes you back to a great time.”

## MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE





# Cruise with caution



By Vince Faust  
Tips to Be Fit

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended in March 2020 that “all people avoid travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide” due to the high risk of COVID-19 exposure. The order ended October 2020.

The CDC announced the framework for a phased resumption of cruise ship passenger operations. The CDC order stated, “Considering the continued spread of COVID-19 worldwide and the increased risk of COVID-19 on cruise ships, a careful approach is needed to safely resume cruise ship passenger operations. CDC is establishing requirements to mitigate the COVID-19 risk to passengers and crew, prevent the further spread of COVID-19 from cruise ships into U.S. communities, and protect public health and safety. After expiration of CDC’s No Sail Order (NSO) on October 31, 2020, CDC will take a phased approach to resuming cruise ship passenger operations in U.S. waters.” The first cruise line to set sail since the ban was lifted, SeaDream, canceled its operations for the remainder of 2020 season after several guests and crew members tested positive for the virus. Cruise ships that only have 250 combined passengers and crew are not subject to CDC requirements under the current ban.

Even before COVID-19 the cruise ship industry had problems with viruses on their ships. COVID-19 put the danger of “cruise ship virus” in the news. Every year a “cruise ship virus” sickens 19 to 21 million Americans according to the CDC. This is about one in 15 American cruise travelers get sick on a cruise. Before COVID-19, 800 Americans died because they traveled on a cruise ship.

The cruise ship industry has been working on a vaccine that would prevent “cruise ship virus” infections. More research is needed before this type of vaccine can be used to insure that cruise ship travelers don’t get sick. Currently there is no known vaccine for the

many viruses that has caused a cruise ship traveler to get sick.

There is no way to be 100% infection free. If you still have a cruise on your mind you should consider a few things:

1. Bring copies of your key medical records. Most large cruise ships have good quality doctors and well-equipped medical facilities. What they won’t have is fast access to your medical records. Your records should include copies of prescriptions, paperwork related to any recent or ongoing medical condition and your doctor’s contact information. You should make sure you have enough of any medication you are currently taking. Check with your insurance company to see if you are covered on a cruise ship. Medical care and prescription services could be triple what you normally pay.
2. Control your eating and drinking. It may be included but you don’t have to eat and drink it all. Over eating and drinking can lead to gastrointestinal distress. It can also lead to a heart attack.
3. You should choose a large ship if you are prone to seasickness. Pick a ship that can handle 3,000 or more passengers. The larger the ship the less your body will feel the movement of the ship. Larger ships also have a larger medical staff. If seasickness is a worry of yours, the best way to avoid that is getting a room in the center of the ship
4. You should purchase travel health insurance especially if you are traveling outside of the United States. Check with your health insurance to see if you are covered on a cruise ship and any ports out side of the country.
5. Talk to your doctor about any vaccines you may need if your cruise goes out of the country.
6. Get enough sleep. Getting enough sleep will help your body’s immune system.
7. Keep your hands away from your nose, ears, mouth and eyes.
8. Wash your hands often.
9. Stop smoking. Smoking lowers your immune system.
10. Disinfect your room.
11. Stay away from sick people.

If you see a passenger that appears to be ill, steer clear and tell a crewmember.

12. Drink bottled water. Always bring bottled water with you when visit any ports of call.
13. Wear your mask.
14. You should stick to well-cooked foods because high cooking temperatures kill bacteria and virus.
15. Buddy up partner. You’ll be less of a target if you have a partner. Don’t advertise you’re traveling alone. Make sure you have a buddy system in place.
16. Pay attention to all safety drills.

You should see the ship’s doctor if you develop any of the following symptoms:

- Develop a fever of 104 or higher that doesn’t go away after over the counter treatment in a couple of hours.
- Develop a fever of 101 with shaking, chills and a productive cough. A productive cough is a cough that produces mucus.
- Have a persistent fever.
- 102 or higher for two days
- 101 or higher for three days
- 100 or higher for four days
- Labored, shallow or rapid breathing with shortness of breath.
- Coughing up mucus that is yellow, green, rust colored or bloodied.
- Develop facial pain.
- Nasal discharge that changes from clear to yellow or green.
- A cough that last longer than 7 to 10 days.
- Wheezing
- Lack of appetite

The cruise ship industry is probably doing the best to keep people safe in their bubble on the ship. Remember nothing is 100% safe. Mask up! Mask right! Over your nose and under your chin! Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician. Watch “Tips to be Fit” on www.lifeandspiritonline.com and www.GoodDayGoodHealth.com

If you have a fitness question or concern you would like addressed write to “Tips to be Fit” P O Box 53443 Philadelphia PA 19105 or [tipstobefit@gmail.com](mailto:tipstobefit@gmail.com)

## Seven ways to improve your family’s dental health



StatePoint

The new year is the perfect time to hit “re-set” and start over with fresh dental habits that can help improve your health.

“As we move into the new year, so many of us are looking at our health and wellness through a new lens,” says Dr. Ruchi Sahota, American Dental Association (ADA) spokesperson. “Your oral and overall health are connected – and even small improvements in your oral health routine can have big payoffs in your overall well-being.”

To help you usher in 2021, the ADA offers seven recommendations for improving your family’s dental health routine:

1. Brush twice a day for two minutes each time using fluoride toothpaste and a soft-bristled brush. Place the brush at a 45-degree angle to the gums. Gently move the brush back and forth in tooth-wide strokes. Brush the outer, inner and chewing surfaces of the teeth. To clean the inside surfaces of the front teeth, tilt the brush vertically and make up-and-down strokes. Parents should instruct kids to do the same.
2. Clean between teeth daily using only interdental cleaners, such as floss or water flossers, to reduce the risk of cavities and gum disease.
3. Eat a nutritious diet. Sugary foods and snacks can lead to tooth decay. On the other hand, calcium – and phosphorous-rich foods protect and strengthen tooth enamel. Fruits and vegetables are also good choices for a healthy smile since they have high water and fiber content, which help clean teeth.
4. Schedule regular dental visits for prevention and treatment of oral disease. Experts say that your family can have safe dental visits, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early in 2020, the ADA used science to develop guidance for dentists on extra steps they can take to help protect patients and staff, in addition to the infection control procedures they’ve always followed. According to a report published in the “Journal of the American Dental Association” in October, 2020, 99 percent of dentists are using enhanced infection control procedures and disinfection practices when treating patients.

5. Look for the ADA Seal of Acceptance. Every product carrying the Seal has been evaluated by independent experts to be safe and effective. To earn the Seal, companies are often asked to meet higher standards than what’s required by law. Look for specific Seal bullets on the back of every Seal product package to find out how they can help keep your mouth healthy.
6. Think twice if you’re considering DIY dental treatments. Some such fads, like oil pulling, are just not effective. Others, such as whitening with charcoal, could even cause damage. Before taking matters into your own hands, talk with your dentist to learn about the potential risks and benefits of each treatment.

“A dentist’s office is a safe place where a doctor is ensuring you’re getting quality care that will actually treat the root of your problem,” says Dr. Sahota.

7. Ditch bad habits that can harm oral health, like nail-biting, clenching your jaw, chewing ice and using your teeth as a stand-in for tools like scissors.

For more dental health tips and resources, visit [MouthHealthy.org](http://MouthHealthy.org). You can find a dentist near you by visiting [FindaDentist.ada.org](http://FindaDentist.ada.org).

Resolving to improve your family’s overall health? Start with your dental care routine.

## Dental visits are essential healthcare, here’s why

StatePoint

If maintaining good health is top of mind these days, as it is for many, be sure to factor dental hygiene into the equation. Medical experts say that a healthy mouth is critical to whole-body health, and warn that during the COVID-19 pandemic, certain stress-related oral health concerns are on the rise.

“Dental health and overall health are intrinsically linked. Beyond teeth and gums, the mouth serves as a window to the rest of the body, providing clues about health related issues that may be brewing,” says Dr. Alice Boghosian, American Dental Association (ADA) spokesperson.

Dr. Boghosian reminds the public that dental visits have always been an essential part of health care and are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to ADA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, dentists have increased their already strong infection control and office sterilization protocols when treating patients.

“Routine dental exams during the pandemic can help keep your mouth and body healthy. In addition, dentists can sometimes spot signs suggestive of medical issues, alerting you to the need for medical follow-up,” says Dr. Boghosian.

According to the ADA, here’s why you should be seeing your dentist regularly, and insights into how oral and overall health are connected:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has been a tremendous source of anxiety and stress, which makes it no surprise that since its onset, a majority of dentists in an ADA Health Policy Institute survey report a rise in stress-related oral health conditions in their patients. If you are waking with a tired

or sore jaw, find you’re grinding your teeth or have a chipped or cracked tooth, a dentist can help.

- Dentists’ areas of care extend beyond teeth, gums and supporting bone to include the muscles of the head, neck and jaw, the tongue, salivary glands and the nervous system of the head, neck and other areas. When appropriate, dentists can take samples of tissue to screen for chronic or infectious diseases, and even oral cancer. Catching oral cancer early reduces the risk of your being among the 10,030 people nationwide whose lives are claimed annually by the disease.

- For the 29.1 million people in the U.S. living with diabetes, and those at high risk of developing the disease, dental visits are especially important. Untreated diabetes can take a toll on your mouth in numerous ways your dentist can detect. What’s more, people with diabetes are more prone to periodontal disease, a chronic, inflammatory disease that can destroy gums, all the tissues holding your teeth and even bones. Research suggests that treating gum disease and then practicing good oral hygiene can help improve blood sugar control in people living with diabetes.

- With pregnancy come changes in your body, including an increased risk of the gum disease called gingivitis. Keeping up with regular dental cleanings during your pregnancy can help keep this issue at bay.

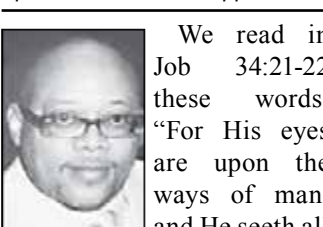
“Dentists, along with your physician and other healthcare professionals, are part of your health care team,” says Dr. Boghosian. “Your oral and overall health are our top priority.”

For more dental health tips and resources, visit [MouthHealthy.org](http://MouthHealthy.org). To find a dentist near you, visit [FindaDentist.ada.org](http://FindaDentist.ada.org).



# Man cannot hide from God

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



We read in Job 34:21-22 these words: “For His eyes are upon the ways of man, and He seeth all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.” There is no place where man can hide from God. There is no place where the workers of iniquity can hide themselves. Are you as careful of what God sees as you are about what others think or see? You need to realize that God’s eyes are in every place, and you need to be careful of the

way you live. Do you fear what your spouse may see if he or she were to get hold of your cell phone? That can be a big issue. Do you have things on your cell phone that you do not want your spouse to know about? Are you hiding things from your spouse? The eyes of the Lord are in every place, seeing the evil and the good. We read in Romans 15:4, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” These things were written for our learning. God cares about us. God knows what we need, and He has it right

in the Bible. It is all within the pages of God’s Word. All of this was written for our learning. We are not going to get away with what others in the past did not get away with. God has the same eyes on us that He had on Cain way back when he killed his brother Abel. Cain tried to talk his way out of it. Cain said in Genesis 4:9-10: “Am I my brother’s keeper? And God said, ‘what hast thou done?’ The voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.” It was only the two of them there, but God saw Cain kill Abel. It was written for our learning. If Cain could not get away with it, what makes you think you

are going to get away with it? Daniel 2:22 reads, “He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.” God sees everything. Darkness does not make any difference with God, my friend. Remember, the eyes of the Lord are in every place, and where His eyes are, His ears are nearby. While others may not hear, God does. He knows exactly what you are listening to. 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 The year of doing things, afraid

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“5, 4,3,2,1... Happy New Year!” When we crossed over into 2021, I was so happy. Like so many of you, 2020 was a year that I was glad to see end. Between the COVID-19 pandemic leaving me isolated working from home to the death of my beloved father (not from COVID-19), I was tired of dealing with the exhausting losses and traumas of 2020. But not everything was bad for me in 2020. There were some good things that happened like finally earning my PhD. As I think about 2020, I think about how anything that I accomplished was because I did things, afraid.

that having faith means that we do not fear. In my life, I’ve actually been fearful but also relied on faith to do certain things. Because of that I also believe that God rewards us for doing things even when we are afraid. Look back at the story of Gideon from Judges 6-8. He was called by God to be a great warrior but was initially so afraid to do what God told him to do that he repeatedly asked for confirmation. I think Gideon’s example is a more realistic example of what it’s like living in our chaotic times. Like Gideon, we are initially afraid when God reveals our purpose. We then want to wait until our fears go away before we do what God has told us to do. But I think God wants us to be obedient, especially when we are afraid.

What I mean by that is I had to make choices on whether I was going to live controlled by my fears or live in spite of my fears. This doesn’t mean I was careless; on those rare occasions when I left my house, I had gloves, hand sanitizer and multiple masks. But even with all that protection, I was still afraid of catching COVID-19. In other words, I did my grocery shopping with my mask but I did not let my fear hold me hostage. It was the same thing with my PhD. There were so many times that I was afraid that I would not get my chapters written or that I would ultimately be pushed out of the program. Despite all of those emotions, I wrote my chapters and was anxious every time I opened an email from my dissertation advisor. What I learned is that pushing through even while afraid is one of the most valuable things I learned from 2020. I think sometimes we are taught

Gideon went from having multiple excuses to being a great warrior and stating boldly in Judges 7:17-18 “‘Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’” He showed that acknowledging fears can actually bring you closer to God and your purpose. So, for the next few weeks, I’ll explore how “doing things, afraid” changed Gideon’s life...and how it can change yours. 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 preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

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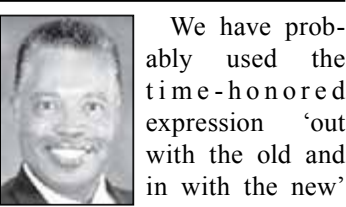
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# The new year is here and so is the Coronavirus

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



We have probably used the time-honored expression ‘out with the old and in with the new’ on more than one occasion. However, this axiom in my opinion has taken on a stronger meaning this year. The consensus is that 2020 was a rough 12 months. In so many respects, our traditional institutions were maligned and marginalized. Standards of excellence were breeched, and promises were not kept. Truth, at least for some, took on a new meaning. The truth was stretched and strained by “alternative truths.” While many balked at alternative truths, it became the mantra and calling card for those wanting to lie, cheat and steal. Politics took a nosedive. Both sides through 2020 could never agree, just to disagree.

As a result, we the people were disappointed and disillusioned. We were in a year long funk and it crossed all spectrums. What happened last year is the major reason why so many people voted in the elections. Believing and achieving led to record numbers in the voting booths. We understood the power of the vote and we used it. The last election was a prime example of our democracy at work. The current administration called the process a fraud, but we called it a victory. Unfortunately, and sadly, the lives of too many black people ended too soon because of violence. Fear and trepidation haunted us each day. The right to feel safe was a dream deferred. The killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police will forever be etched in our minds. To watch his life taken in public view arguably made the Black Lives Matter movement stronger and more relevant than ever in 2020.

People of both races joined forces to say enough is enough. BLM gained more influence because young white folks added their voices to it. No longer was it just us protesting in the streets, it was white people protesting in the streets too. It is my thinking that the organization is only going to get stronger this year. Now I believe they must be at the forefront to see that laws are changed that are detrimental to black and brown people. Legislators at all levels will have to reckon with Black Lives Matter. Get ready! While we ushered in the new year, COVID-19 ushered itself in too. This virus will be here for most of this year. That is a dire prediction, but that is my opinion. The New York Times reports that over 4.2 million people here have received a dose of the vaccine. This falls short of the federal projection of 20 million people. I believe distribution of the vaccine and a reluctance to

take it are some stumbling blocks. States are receiving different amounts and sending them to different locations. At this moment, it is up to the states to regulate the distribution. In my opinion, we are at the corner of hope and action. Americans are hoping that this vaccine program brings some relief. We hope that we have turned the corner. Yet from where I sit at the inquiry desk, we have only just begun. We are not even close to the corner. The action component of the vaccine dissemination is slow and uneven. Maybe the projections of how many people would be vaccinated were off. Those calculations set off false hope in the American people. Distribution and those vaccinated must be more closely aligned and realistic projections must be made. We have work to do, but we have the resources and the brainpower to do it.

## Georgia runoff proof positive, black votes matter

By Leon Williams  
Contributing Writer



The outcome of Tuesday’s senatorial runoff in Georgia is a stark example of poetic justice almost too intricate to effectively untangle. This political high point in black American history arrives as the Trump Administration hits rock bottom. It comes years after many political pundits and ordinary citizens repeatedly asked when is someone “in authority” going to do something about Trump’s intentional demolition of America’s framework? Most importantly, Raphael Warnock’s and John Ossoff’s victories unequivocally demonstrate the authority lies in the hands of the voters. Georgia’s transition from its historically designated status as a red state, to becoming a blue state, was anything but smooth. In fact, Georgia has traditionally been considered a Republican firewall relative to tactics expressly designed to disenfranchise voters of color. In 2017 current Governor Brian Kemp, then serving as Secretary of State, spearheaded the implementation of multiple laws expressly designed to diminish black voter participation, removing more than 500,000 voters from the roles. Kemp’s underhanded deeds, along with those of other Geor-

gia Republican officials, assured him a 2018 victory over Stacey Abrams, ushering him into the governorship and giving him a false affirmation that his victory was truly legitimate. Fortunately, Kemp had the bad fortune of messing with the wrong person. In 2017 Abrams created Fair Fight, a grass-roots political organization to insure fair elections, not only in Georgia, but throughout the nation. Under her leadership Fair Fight registered hundreds of thousands of new voters and won legal challenges preventing attempted voter suppression antics. Other significant players have also had a profound impact on bringing the nation to this point. Reverend William Barbour, Colin Kaepernick and the Black Lives Matter movement have galvanized public engagement in the political process at historical proportions. This should be a positive lesson to any person of color who previously said or thought “my vote doesn’t count.” The words of writer James Baldwin go a long way in exemplifying this for African Americans, “Not only was I not born to be a slave: I was not born to become the equal of the slave-master. They had, the masters, incontestably, the rope.. in time, with enough, they would hang themselves with it. They were not to hang me: I was to see to that.”.....Well done Georgia!

# The DNA of a black woman

By Chuck Richardson  
TriceEdneyWire.com

There is something magical about a fearless, intelligent, incorruptible black woman; a woman willing to sacrifice and face any obstacle she must for a greater cause than herself. Black women have been, and continue to be, the crucible of fortitude. Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, Fannie Lou Hamer and thousands beside them have been the bedrock of African-American progress. I realized in my late twenties that if you want to get it done – you better have black women involved. That was when I, in 1977, ran for and won a seat on the first majority black city council in Richmond, Va. It was the determination of black women, some more than twice my age, that made the history possible. When those black women spoke, weathered by storms of racism, deprivation and personal abuses, it changed the atmosphere. A crowd of timid, doubtful or unfocused lambs became ferocious lions. People today might speak of my legacy of achievements in Richmond, but they don’t know the source of my confidence. I can’t recall the number of times strong black women lifted me and forged new inspiration. From the late seventies to the early nineties, I won nine consecutive re-elections. Any success reached by fighting the good fight, including my relentless efforts over two decades to remove the Confederate monuments on Monument Ave, were only possible because of the victories won for me by these wom-



Vice President-elect Kamala Harris; former Atlanta First Lady Valerie Richardson Jackson; democratic activist Stacey Abrams

en. Black men in my campaigns were strong and forceful, the physical image the organization needed, I don’t deny that. But diligence was more often worn by the women. I remember one election when I needed 20 new people registered as voters in each precinct. The young volunteers would

bring back three or four and a handful of excuses. But there were elder women, some who did not walk easily, who would return with the full number. One of them said to a young person, “You don’t win elections with good excuses – you need voters.” Women like Bessie Jones, Elaine Dunn or Luetta B.

Wooldridge were managers and coordinators for my campaigns. And they stood with me in difficult times when very few had the will. Rev. Sarah Goshen, an older black woman with a calm but convincing demeanor, stood up in a storm of attacks on my character during a controversial

and profound personal battle. She admonished the men who chose to disregard my history of service to my country, and more directly, to the African Americans in Richmond. Goshen stood with the same solidarity and courage that defined her fore-mothers, “Don’t abandon the bridge that brung you cross,” she demanded. My spirit rose to the ceiling. “Don’t abandon the bridge that brung you cross.” It has indeed been a bridge, one more river to cross for black Americans. Two-hundred fifty years of slavery and Jim Crow seem to have developed a certain ‘DNA’ in black women. Because, to watch as your child is torn away, or your man absolutely emasculated and denied any dignity, to have your body raped and to endure a brutalized life of labor, something had to evolve in the ‘DNA’ of black women. A new measure of courage, strength, dignity and faith saved them; the crucible of fortitude. They marched on and we march on today. America is more divided perhaps since slavery itself. But black women have our backs, still enduring, fighting the good fight. Women like my own sister, Valerie Richardson Jackson, the former first lady of Atlanta, who persevered with myself as one of the first students integrating our high school. Becoming one of the first black women to attend the Wharton School of Business (now led by a black woman), working and paying her way through, earning her M.B.A. She went on to market General Foods products and gained a regional role at Trans World Airlines corporate head-

quarters in New York. Because a strong, smart black woman is not to be passed over, she won the heart of and married a man who was certainly the most consequential politician in the history of Atlanta: Mayor Maynard Jackson. Maynard always said of Valerie, “She enables me.” The nation has recently come to know two more amazing black women: Democratic activist Stacey Abrams, and Sen. Kamala Harris; now vice president-elect. Abrams showed her ability early, in front of the very Atlanta City Hall that Maynard occupied. She led a large group of university students calling on the mayor to address student issues. Maynard was impressed and invited her to meet with him. Afterward, he gave Abrams her first job in politics. The rest is history: a heroic race for governor of Georgia, and a voter registration movement that is unprecedented, and driving the numbers to heights heretofore unseen – a democratic movement that has already become a model for the nation. Valerie has always been a strong supporter of both Abrams and Harris. Three friends, three black women, three lessons we should take from them – and history. With a black woman becoming vice-president, we should keep in mind what it took, because we will need it going forward: patience with diligence, courage with wisdom, boldness with conviction. In other words, black women. Chuck Richardson, a former 18-year veteran of the Richmond City Council, is founder of the National Organization of Rehabilitated Offenders (NORO).



# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### Rotary Club of South Hinds County partners with District and Stewpot for coat giveaway

The South Hinds Rotary Club recently partnered with the Hinds County School District and collected over 350 coats for needy Stewpot members. “As we close out this most challenging year as Rotarians, we all need a lot of holiday joy. Our goal is to help our communities all year long by helping people through our service projects and the Rotary Foundation,” said Club President Rosemary Cargin



Elaine Toney, club member and mortgage loan originator/Community Bank



Ed Trim, club member and owner of Pennington & Trim Alarm Services



Daffney Gavin, nurse /RES and Roshonda Clark, assistant principal / RES



John Neal, club member and associate superintendent / HCSD and Delesicia Martin, club member and superintendent / HCSD

### Local leaders partner with Utica Elementary/Middle School for Winter Gear Drive

Special thanks to the Honorable Stephanie Foster for delivering on the PROMISE and rounding up the troops to support our Winter Gear Drive. Dr. Smith, Principal of UEMS stated that over 200 coats, gloves and hats were collected for students in Utica, Bolton and Edwards.



L-R: Marcus Jackson and Reverend Greg Divinity, pastor, New Vineyard Church of Jackson; David Archie, Hinds Co. District 2 supervisor; Will Smith, principal, UEMS; and Rep. Stephanie Foster, District-63.



### Raymond High School English Learners class used sewing to enhance English language vocabulary

The EL (English Learners) class at Raymond High School has recently used sewing as an opportunity to enhance their English language vocabulary. One of the EL students had prior knowledge of sewing and had practiced the skill for several years. However, the student did not have the appropriate resources at home to allow for continued practice and thus improvement. Thanks to the generosity of the Adult and Teen Challenge Mercy House Thrift Store the RHS staff procured and was able to refurbish a vintage Singer 15-91 sewing machine. Students have discussed the different uses of a sewing machine in the home, read articles about properly written thank-you notes, and are now finalizing thank-you notes to send to the thrift store. On Friday, December 4, students assisted in making cloth face masks for themselves and for members of their families.

The sewing machine will lead to other language acquisition as students will learn how to properly care for the machine, learn the names of different parts of the machine, read passages about sewing and write narrative and informative passages about sewing.





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-1 (Single-family) Residential District to allow for 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 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

Public Notice

All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Hinds, County, are hereby advised that the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, to provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons. These services will be beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service is being provided within Hinds, County. This program consists of existing services with no environmental impact, and no relocation resulting from the project.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for persons with disabilities within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time beginning December 21, 2020 through January 22, 2021 from 8:00am to 5:00pm. All comments should be addressed to Mrs. Carmen Davis at the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation at 601-982-8467 ext. 129 or via email at cdavis@jacksonmedicalmall.org.

12-10-2020, 12-17-2020, 1-7-2021, 1-14-2021

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 748-1-173) 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 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

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.apply4housing.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 BIDS

City of Jackson, Mississippi

48" Water Transmission Main,  
Silas Brown Street to I-20

City Project No. 17B0103.901

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 219 South President Street, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 P.M. Local Time, on February 2, 2021, for supplying all labor and materials (as specified) necessary for construction of the 48" Water Transmission Main, Silas Brown Street to I-20, City Project No. 17B0103.901.

Contract time shall be 360 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$1,000.00 plus any additional costs above \$1,000.00 incurred by the Owner. These additional costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and female business enterprises will be afforded the full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. The bidders attention is further directed to Special Notice to Bidders, included in the Equal Business Opportunity Plan which is a part of the contract documents for this project. (Special Notice to Bidders relates to the utilization of small business concerns (MBE's/FBE's) on this project.)

The City of Jackson is committed to the principal of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, every contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Executive Order. Failure to comply with the City's Executive Order shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract.

For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1856. Copies of the EBO Executive Order, EBO Plan Application, EBO Program, the MBE/FBE Directory and the MBE/FBE Certification Affidavit are available at 200 South President Street, Suite 223, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, in consideration for an award.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

A pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. in the 1st floor Andrew Jackson Conference Room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi Law and show current Certificate of Responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Public Contractors establishing his classification as to the value and type of construction on which he is authorized to bid.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal form provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for 48" Water Transmission Main, Silas Brown Street to I-20, City Project No. 17B0103.901". Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal.

Bids and EBO Plans shall be submitted in triplicate (bound/stapled separately), sealed and deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, Jackson, Mississippi, prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Official Bid Documents, including the Contract Documents and Drawings can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bidder must deposit with his bid a Bid Bond or Certified Check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of his bid, payable to the City of Jackson as bid security. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City of Jackson. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

Each bidder must submit with his bid a separate attachment stating his qualifications to perform the work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications.

Awarding public contracts to non-resident Bidders will be on the same basis as the non-resident bidder's state awards contracts to Mississippi Contractors bidding under similar circumstances. Current state law, Mississippi General Laws of 2010, Chapter 383, section 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requires a nonresident bidder to attach to the bid a copy of the Bidder's resident state's current laws pertaining to such state's treatment of nonresident contractors. Non-resident bidders must attach to their bid a copy of any bid preference law of the state, city, county, parish, province, nation or political subdivision where they are domiciled. If there is no such law where they are domiciled, all non-resident bidders shall attach a letter to their bid stating that there is no bid preference law where they are domiciled. The bid of any non-resident bidder who fails to attach to its bid a copy of its domicile's bid preference law or a letter stating that its domicile has no such bid preference law, whichever is applicable, shall be rejected and not considered for award.

The ENGINEER is Neel-Schaffer, Inc., 125 South Congress Street, Suite 1100, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, 601-948-3071, Fax No. 601-948-3178.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, Instructions to Bidders and Bidders Proposal forms are on file and open to public inspection in the office of the Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, City of Jackson, Mississippi and the Office of the City Clerk.

"Mississippi Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, [Current] Edition" as referred to herein, may be purchased from the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Minority and women's business enterprises are solicited to bid on this contract as prime contractors and are encouraged to make inquiries regarding potential subcontracting opportunities, equipment, material and/or supply needs.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By: Dr. Charles Williams, PhD, PE

12-31-2020, 1-7-2021

Office  
Space for  
Rent

Garrett  
Enterprises  
Building


(Near Jackson Medical Mall)

2659 Livingston Road  
Jackson, MS 39213

2500 Square Feet

Call: 601-209-9199





**Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator**

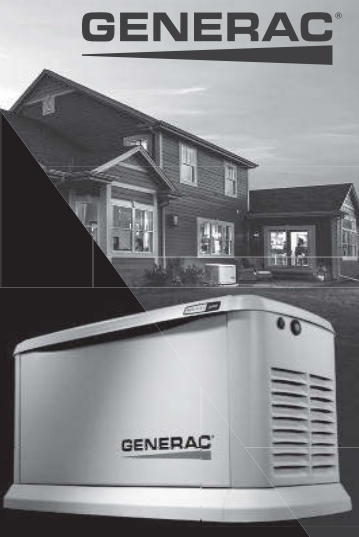
**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!**  
**844-316-8630**

**FREE**  
7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

**Special Financing Available**  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



### Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14			15				16		
17					18	19			
			20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

**ACROSS**

1. Married woman

4. Derivative of opium

10. Cereal

11. Bezel

12. School group

13. Made available

14. Before ninth

16. Spots

17. Yoga practitioner

18. Scottish “one”

20. Woman’s title

22. What you do for the judge

26. Digital audio tape

29. Annuler

31. Fly

33. Freudian term

34. Like hippie’s clothing

35. Modern

36. Harmonize

37. Compass point

**DOWN**

1. Sulky

2. 2:1, for example

3. Canned chili brand

4. Except

5. High ranking man- used formerly

6. Internal Revenue Service

7. Water (Spanish)

8. Equal

9. Ceases

15. Masculine pronoun

19. Time period

21. Mythical deity

23. Objects

24. Sego lilies’ bulbs

25. Wear away

26. Input

27. Car rental agency

28. Binds

30. Vegetable

32. Hoopla

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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.

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

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### Crossword Solution

M	R	S		O	P	I	A	T	E
O	A	T		M	A	R	G	I	N
P	T	A		I	S	S	U	E	D
E	I	G	H	T		A	D	S	
Y	O	G	I		A	E			
			M	S		R	I	S	E
D	A	T		A	B	A	T	E	R
A	V	I	A	T	E		E	G	O
T	I	E	D	Y	E		M	O	D
A	S	S	O	R	T		S	S	E

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### Sudoku Solution

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

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## Pick Up The Mississippi Link

At The Following Locations:

**JACKSON**

**BULLY’S RESTAURANT**  
3118 Livingston Road

**CASH & CARRY**  
Capitol Street and Monument Street

**CITY HALL**  
219 S President St

**GARRETT OFFICE COMPLEX**  
2659 Livingston Road

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
3957 Northview Dr (North Jackson)

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2030 N Siwell Rd

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
4331 Highway 80W

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
5990 Medgar Evers Blvd

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
1214 Capitol St (Downtown Jackson)

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
304 Briarwood Dr

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
2855 McDowell Rd

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
104 Terry Rd

**J & A FUEL STORES**  
3249 Medgar Evers Blvd.

**LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST**  
2325 Livingston Rd.

**MCDADDE’S MARKET**  
Northside Drive

**MCDADDE’S MARKET #2**  
653 Duling Avenue

**PICADILLY CAFETERIA**  
Jackson Medical Mall

350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue

**SHELL FOOD MART**  
5492 Watkins Drive

**SPORTS MEDICINE**  
Fortification and I-55

**MURPHY USA**  
6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)

**REVELL ACE HARDWARE**  
Terry Rd (South Jackson)

**WALGREENS**  
380 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave

**CANTON**

**A & I**  
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Week of January 03, 2020



# Boston Red Sox Minor League hires Bianca Smith as first black woman coach in baseball history

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Contributor*

Bianca Smith, an African American woman, has made baseball history.

Smith, who most recently served as an assistant baseball coach and hitting coordinator at Wisconsin's Carroll University, was named a coach in the Boston Red Sox minor league system.

Smith, 29, becomes the first black woman to coach in professional baseball.

She will work with the team's infielders at the Red Sox minor league facility in Fort Meyers, Fla.

"She was a great candidate coming in," Red Sox vice president of player development Ben Crockett told the Boston Globe.

"She's had some really interesting experiences and has been passionate about growing her



Smith

skillset and development."

That Smith's historic hiring happened in Boston, a city where angry mobs violently attacked school buses carrying

black children to previously all-white schools in the 1970s, could be a sign of racial progress.

The team has had a history of

racism at Fenway Park.

In 2019, four fans hung a banner that read "Racism is as American as Baseball," from the famed Green Monster.

Last year, retired baseball star Torii Hunter told ESPN that he was called the N-word several times by fans as young as "little kids." He later said that he had heard more racist remarks in Boston than any other city.

"When I went to Boston, it was so consistent. After a while, I just kind of shoved it off, and I went out and played. I played with aggression, though," Hunter relayed.

He added that he felt uncomfortable with the idea of his family living in Boston if he had signed there.

"That's why I got the no-trade clause, the list of teams, and I put Boston in there," Hunter added.

"I love Boston. I wanted to play there. It just hit me that I can't have my wife and my kids in this area," he continued.

"There is no way I can do that because I don't ever want them to go through that, and if they do, I don't know what I would do, and I would be the angry black guy, and that wouldn't be good."

Hunter's comments prompted the Red Sox to issue a statement acknowledging his experience.

The team noted that, in 2019, there were seven reported incidents of fans using racial slurs at Fenway Park.

In 2017, Baltimore Orioles star outfielder Adam Jones said he was on the receiving end of racial slurs at Fenway Park no less than 100 times.

Fans even threw bags of peanuts at him, Jones said.

But the hiring of Smith is

barrier-breaking. She joins a list of female professional baseball coaches, including Rachel Balkovec of the New York Yankees, Rachel Folden of the Chicago Cubs, and Christina Whitlock of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Last year, Alyssa Nakken of the San Francisco Giants became the first on-field female coach in Major League Baseball.

She once served as an intern for the Texas Rangers and Cincinnati Reds.

Smith also played softball at Dartmouth from 2010-12 before working as director of baseball operations at Case Western Reserve University from 2013 to 2017 and as an assistant coach with the University of Dallas in 2018.

"It's a meaningful thing for the organization," Crockett said of Smith's hire.

## Andre Hill's loved ones mourn loss of 'a chess-playing mind'

By Farnoush Amiri  
and Andrew Welsh-Huggins  
*Associated Press*

In late May, Andre Hill and his roommate Donyell Bryant watched in shock, along with the nation, the video of a Minneapolis police officer pressing his knee on George Floyd's neck for minutes, even as Floyd pleaded that he couldn't breathe.

Nearly six months later, Bryant, 42, sat alone on the same couch in his home in Dublin in suburban Columbus watching body camera footage of police shooting and killing his friend of 22 years.

The Rev. Al Sharpton will deliver his friend's eulogy at a public memorial service Tuesday, Hill's family said Friday.

"I mean, it just still doesn't even feel real," Bryant said. "It just seems kind of crazy."

Columbus Officer Adam Coy, who is white, fatally shot Hill, who was black, early Dec. 22 as Hill emerged from a garage holding a cellphone in his left hand and his right hand obscured. He was visiting a family friend at the time.

Police had responded to a neighbor's non-emergency complaint about someone stopping and starting a car outside.

"He was bringing me Christmas money. He didn't do anything," a woman inside the house shouted at police afterward.

Coy, who had a long history of complaints from citizens, was fired Dec. 28 for failing to activate his body camera before the confrontation and for not providing medical aid to Hill.

Beyond an internal police investigation, the Ohio attorney general, the U.S. attorney for central Ohio and the FBI have begun their own probes into the shooting.

At the memorial service Tuesday morning at the First Church of God in Columbus, civil rights attorney Ben Crump is expected to issue a "call to action," according to the Hill family's news release.

Family and friends are remem-



Hill

bering Hill – a father and grandfather – as a man devoted to his family, an always-smiling optimist and a skilled tradesman who dreamed after years of work as a chef and restaurant manager of one day owning his own restaurant.

"I consider him an everything man," his 27-year-old daughter, Karissa Hill, said Thursday. She added: "It's hard to say what he did, because he did everything."

Hill, 47, grew up in the Eastmoor neighborhood of Columbus, a racially mixed area on the city's east side. He graduated in the early 1990s and earned certification in business management and culinary arts at Hocking College in southeastern Ohio.

Hill – "Dre" to friends and "Big Daddy" to his three grandchildren – worked at many restaurants around Columbus over the years either as a chef or manager, including Buffalo Wild Wings and Popeyes, and franchises of two smaller chains, Cooker Restaurant and the Old Bag of Nails.

He was a skilled soul food chef but enjoyed trying all styles of cooking.

"You name it, he makes it," said Michael Henry, 49, who attended high school with Hill and later shared an apartment. He added: "That was his passion right there, cooking."

Later, Hill joined Henry at Airnet Systems in Columbus, a transportation company that shipped packages and mail, including overnighting checks to banks. There, he met Bryant, bonding over a game of chess. The two

hit it off, eventually moving in together and becoming more like brothers than roommates, said Bryant, who met his girlfriend of four years through Hill.

Victor Carmichael met Hill and Bryant when he also started work at Aimet Systems in the late 1990s. Carmichael, 44, was new to Columbus at the time and didn't know anyone. Hill helped him find a community in Ohio, he said, typical of the kind of friend he was.

Hill's fondness for chess epitomized the way he conducted himself, said his younger brother, Alvon Williams, calling him an overachiever.

"He had a chess-playing mind with life," Williams said. "Chess is a move before your initial move, even two moves ahead. And that's what he did every day with anything that he tried to achieve."

Hill was insistent that his family – including his daughter and grandchildren and his two sisters and brother – stay in touch, especially after any prolonged separation.

"He's the one to make that call – 'You get over here right now. I'm cooking dinner. Let's go,'" said sister Michelle Hairston, 45.

In the last year, the coronavirus pandemic forced Hill to press pause on his dream of owning a restaurant, and he took on work in construction and house remodeling to help provide for his family instead. He worked across Ohio as a subcontractor, said sister Shawna Barnett.

The day he died, Hill had put together his own crew to do independent contracting, a goal he had been working toward since March, Bryant said.

On that Tuesday, Hill was borrowing a co-worker's truck he had plans to purchase and parked it outside his friend's house.

Underneath the sweater he wore as he emerged from the garage and walked slowly toward police, he was wearing a Black Lives Matter T-shirt calling for justice for George Floyd.

## Crump wants white woman who attacked black teen over cell phone prosecuted

By Stacy M. Brown  
*NNPA Newswire Contributor*

Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump said, "enough is enough." The famed lawyer has demanded that New York prosecutors bring charges against a white woman who viciously attacked a young African-American teen in a hotel lobby after she falsely claimed the youth stole her iPhone.

"As this year of racial awareness is drawing to a close, it's deeply troubling that incidents like this one, in which a black child is viewed as and treated like a criminal, continue to happen," stated Crump, who in 2020 has represented the families of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Jacob Blake.

On Tuesday, December 29, 2020, a spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr., confirmed that the office was investigating the assault on Kenyon Harrold Jr., the son of jazz trumpeter Kenyon Harrold.

The incident, which the senior Harrold captured on cellphone video, occurred on December 26 at the Arlo Hotel, a boutique four-star hotel in New York's Soho section.

While the Harrold's were grabbing breakfast, the still-unidentified white woman lashed out, tackled, and scratched the innocent teen, accusing him of stealing her phone.

When the elder Harrold stepped in with his camera recording the incident, the woman allegedly assaulted the Grammy-winner as well.

She then confronts a hotel manager and accused Harrold,



Crump

Jr., of stealing her phone and again lunges at the youth.

"Take the case off, that's mine," the angry woman yells in the video. "Literally, get it back," she demands of the hotel manager.

A few minutes later, the woman's missing phone was returned by an Uber driver, who noted that she mistakenly left it in the car.

"I am furious," the elder Harrold, who counts Prince, Common, and Dr. Dre as influences, wrote on Instagram.

"We see this crap happening all the time, but it hits different when it hits home. I typically try to keep things positive, but nothing about this video is positive."

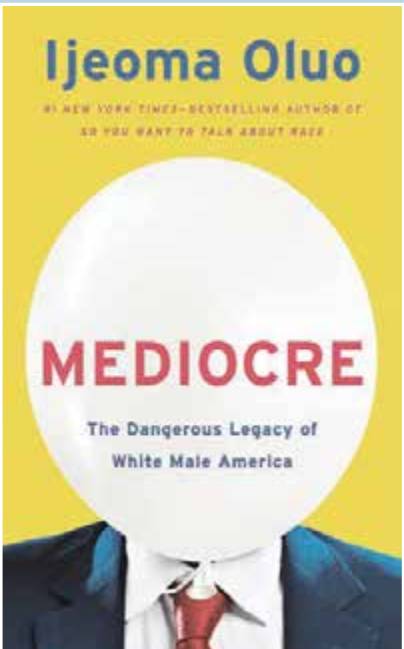
The hotel issued an apology and called the Harrolds' experience "inexcusable" before

offering that "more could have been done to de-escalate the dispute."

Crump remained furious. "Compounding the injustice, the hotel manager defaulted to calling on 14-year-old Keyon to prove his innocence, documenting that we have two justice systems in America and that black people are treated as guilty until proven innocent," Crump exclaimed.

"We strongly urge Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. to bring assault and battery charges against this woman to send the message that hateful, racially motivated behavior is unacceptable. This is what it will take to drive change. We also call for a civil rights investigation into the Arlo Hotel for its implicit bias in its treatment of Kenyon."





BOOK REVIEW:

MEDIOCRE:  
THE DANGEROUS LEGACY  
OF WHITE MALE AMERICA

BY IJEOMA ULUO

C.2020, SEAL PRESS

\$28.00 / \$35.00 CANADA • 336 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

This year, you are going to roar. You’re going to seize every opportunity, wrestle every bad habit to the ground, and do better than your best. You’re gonna kick the universe in the tail. This is absolutely going to be your year – unless, as in the new book “Mediocre” by Ijeoma Uluo, someone’s standing in your way, now and for a hundred years.

In addition to a quiet setting and uninterrupted time to write, on a recent retreat for women, Ijeoma Uluo noticed that when

socializing, most of the attendees talked about men – but not the boyfriend-husband-partner men. They discussed bad “dudes,” particularly the white ones that largely controlled publishing. That conversation morphed into bad men, white men in general, that are “found just about everywhere...”

There are, Uluo says, “a thousand memes” that feature the words, “Lord, give me the confidence of a mediocre white man,” meaning that “white male mediocrity is a baseline” from which all power rotates, “regardless of

skill... or talent...” It’s as if some sort of higher rank should be granted just because those individuals happen to be white men.

None of this is new. It’s been going on for hundreds of years, Uluo says, and black women aren’t the only ones on the receiving end of it. It exists in the West, as white men fight against white men over land that white men stole.

We see white male privilege all over politics, from the top down and especially in political arenas where white supremacy exists. It’s been on college campuses,

and in places of higher education where black people were historically denied entrance. It’s in the workplace, where black women continue to make far less money than their white male counterparts.

White male privilege exists today in economics, pro sports, in language, in an ignorance of history and the contributions of black men and women, and in entertainment. It’s a “very dark place,” Uluo says, and there are things every American can do about it – starting with two things: an acknowledgment that we need

white men, and an admission to our complicity in this terrible, untenable legacy.

Got a few days to read? Yeah, and grab a packet of those sticky-flag things, too. “Mediocre” is a book that practically demands them: though this is not a seven-hundred-page manifesto, there’s that much information inside its covers.

What’s more, author Ijeoma Uluo asks readers to think about her words, and not lightly. This is a read-a-few-paragraphs, put-it-down kind of book, making you live with the facts before mov-

ing forward. Uluo uses stories to illustrate many of her points, diving into American history, politics, and economics to help readers to see how quietly, totally entrenched white male privilege is and has been. Most eye-opening are her many statements of relevancy, showing how white males enjoy other cultures blithely, often while denigrating those very cultures.

Be prepared to give yourself a lot of time with this book – it needs that. And then be prepared for action, because “Mediocre” is going to make you roar.

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## Kwanzaa! Kwanzaa!

### Peoples Bonanza & Festival

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob  
Contributing Writer

*Kwanza! Kwanza! Sparks hope  
Even when things slam as dope  
Fans, families and friends rejoice  
As they celebrate in grand voice*

*Cheers, Joy, peace and gladness  
Activate as glowing happiness  
Exciting and elevating as songs  
Amidst little or large throngs*

*Families, fans and friends  
Defying shameless fiends  
Congregate at special venues  
Like eager hunters of revenues*

*Kwanza! Matunda ya kwanza  
Seven ace principles, Nguzo Saba  
Edify global African story, & culture  
As leading light & growth feature*

*Kwanza observes Umoja-unity  
Stressing togetherness & solidarity  
Umoja fosters community and race  
Families, nations, friends and peace*

*Kwanza raises self-determination  
Kuchichagulia! Kuchichagulia!  
Identifying names & causes  
Goals, objectives and vision  
Strategies, tactics and mission*

*Kwanza leads Ujima! Yes Ujima!  
Collective work, & responsibility  
Kwanza helps, societal elevation  
Group problem solving & education*

*Kwanza furthers Ujama! Yes Ujama  
Collective politics and economics  
Building and maintaining businesses  
Seeking profits, investments & savings*

*Kwanza upgrades Purpose Nia! Yes Nia  
Efforts towards success & greatness.  
Kwanza encourages advancement  
Like diverse fulfillments & attainments*

*Kwanza lights creativity – Kuumba  
It boosts diverse uniqueness  
Making homes and deeds beautiful  
Promoting top feats as the successful*

*Kwanza buzzes faith Imani yes Imani  
Trashing every filth & dirty wealth  
Kwanza nurtures belief in God,*

*Work, people, struggle and victory  
It celebrates ancestors, leaders  
Achievers and looks to the future*

*Bravo Kwanza leaders  
Hurrah Kwanza organizers  
Cheers to all Kwanza contributors  
Appreciation & Salutations to you all  
Cheers! Cheers! Greetings to you all  
Jolly Kwanza and happy New Year*

## 2020/21 Kwanza rocks Jackson Mississippi

### Reflections, history, prayers and music

By Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob  
Contributing Writer



Despite CORONAVIRUS invasion, Jackson Mississippi residents and friends celebrated the 2020/21 Kwanza bonanza and festival with cheers and enthusiasm.

Reflections, history, rituals, prayers and community development strategies dominated the weeklong festivity, which lasted from December 26 to January 1.

#### Kwanza Rituals

It reenacted Kwanza rituals notably, libation, candle lighting, eating, circle of remembrance, rumination and homage with the pledge, black anthem and future plans. The event was held at the Jackson Art Gallery on the corner of Monument and Farish Streets in Jackson, Mississippi.

#### Dr. Adjanaku Honored

Adjanaku, the proprietor and manager of the African Art Gallery, was honored and hailed for his generosity. Over the years he has shared the center and its resources for the event.

Kwanza whizz, Brotha Lucata, thanked Adjanaku for his contributions to the community stressing that he is a role model who champions commerce at home and abroad.

Adjanaku, who started working as a door salesperson, is today an international business person with transactions at home and abroad. He is one of the leading African-American business managers in Jackson Mississippi, who also trades internationally.

#### Leader: Baba Lucata

Organizers included Africanist Baba Lucata who provided Kwanza's history, elucidated its principles and passionately highlighted concrete cases and contexts for their applicability. He stressed that Kwanza offers a solid inspirational framework for analyzing and tackling African-American crises.

#### Myraid Activities

Over the years contributors and sponsors have included: Jackson Firefighters, Respect Our Black Dollars Movement, Jackson Advocate Newspaper, Nation of Islam and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Other supporters and helpers included: Adjanaku, Eddie George, Ivory Phillips, Jackie Bennet and Jean Collier, the African Art Gallery store sales manager. Colliers cleans the store, manages the account and welcomes guests and customers under the leadership of Adjanaku who organizes, decorates and orders the products and artifacts for the store.

#### Social Distancing

Owing to CORONAVIRUS, Kwanza activities were scaled down and social distancing observed at all occasions.

Notwithstanding, participants still displayed their zest, commitment and zeal to further Kwanza principles. They are excellent precepts for societal, local, national and international advancement.

#### Kwanza's 7 Principles

Kwanza, came into being in 1966. It was established by scholar and researcher Maulena Karenga. It has seven principles. They are: 1. Umoja – Unity; 2. Kujichagulia – Self-Determination; 3. Ujima – Collective Economics and Responsibility; 4. Ujamaa – Cooperative Economics; 5. Nia – Purpose; 6. Kuumba – Creativity; 7. Imani – Faith.

Dr. Jerry Komia Domatob, a graduate of E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University-Athens, Ohio is a professor of Mass Communication, Alcorn State University, Lorman-Mississippi. He is a journalist, photographer, poet and researcher.





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