



Black History timeline in a capsule

By **Edelia Dr. Jay Carthan**
Contributing Writer

Black History Month is an annual celebration observed during the month of February in the United States, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to celebrate the contributions and history of black people. Some say they picked the shortest month to celebrate Black History Month. However, We should celebrate Black history 365 days a year.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the Father of Black History, and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, announced that the second week of February would be “Negro History Week” in 1926. This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln February 12 and of Frederick Douglass February 14. Negro History Week grew over the decades into Black History Month.

The first Black History Month celebration took place at Kent State University in February 1969. In 1976, fifty years after the first celebration, it expanded to Black History Month. President Gerald Ford and every American president since, has recognized Black History Month.

The idea to study Black history was born in the summer of 1915 when Woodson and friends traveled from Washington, DC to Chicago to participate in a national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation. Passed by Congress in 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States except as a punishment for crime. Thousands of African Americans travelled from across the country to see exhibits highlighting the progress black people had made since the deconstruction of slavery.

Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of black life and history. On September 9, Woodson met at the Wabash YMCA with A. L. Jackson and three others and formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH).

One of the oldest books that teaches Black History is the Bible. Biblical characters are often portrayed as white and European, all except one of the wise men. The book of Genesis is where Black History begins with the formation of man.

When God created Adam out of the dust of the ground, it contained the soil of Mesopotamia and the sun-warmed earth of Africa. The Garden of Eden is located in Africa. The lands of the Bible span the continents of Africa and Asia – both home to people of color.

However, for the sake of time and space, the following timeline of events is comprehensive. There are more events, people and things that should be included. Build upon this list. Share the timeline of events and achievements with family and friends.

The timeline starts with Mansa Musa in 1200’s, a black man, an emperor and the richest man to ever live and ends with the election of the first woman of color as vice president of the United States.

Black History Timeline

- 1280 – Mansa Musa, a black

man, was the richest person ever in the history of the world. The fourteenth century Mali Emperor came to power in 1312. Mansa Musa developed cities like Timbuktu which became home to the first and oldest school. Mansa Musa turned the kingdom of Mali into a sophisticated center of learning in the Islamic world.

- 1472 – Portuguese negotiate the first slave trade agreement that also includes gold and ivory.

- 1513 – Juan Garrido was the first African in America. He helped Cortez take Mexico.

- 1528 – In November of 1528, a slave called Esteban (or Estevanico) became the first African slave to step foot on what is now the United States of America. He was one of only four survivors of Pánfilo de Narváez’s failed expedition to Florida.

- 1619 – On August 20, 1619 twenty African Kings and Queens arrived in America and forced into slavery.

- 1621 – Anthony Johnson earned his freedom and became the first black property owner in America. He owned other slaves. But the Colony of Virginia later took his land, a 250 acre tobacco farm.

- 1704 – French colonist Elias Neau opens a school for enslaved African Americans in New York City.

- 1708 – South Carolina becomes the first English colony with an African-American majority.

- 1753 – Benjamin Banneker designed and built the first clock in the British American colonies. He also created a series of almanacs. He corresponded with Thomas Jefferson and wrote that “blacks were intellectually equal to whites.” Banneker worked with Pierre L’Enfant to survey and design a street and urban plan for Washington, D.C.

- 1781 – Elizabeth Freeman won her freedom in Massachusetts. Brom and Bett v. Ashley (1781), gained freedom based on constitutional right to liberty.

- 1791 – The Haitian Revolution begins. It is the largest and most successful slave revolution.

- 1800 – The White House is built (by slaves) in Washington, D.C.

- 1803 – Haiti becomes first black independent nation

- 1804 – Middlebury College awards an honorary master’s degree to Lemuel Haynes, an African American who fought in the Revolutionary War.

- 1823 – Alexander Lucuis Twilight becomes the first known African American to graduate from a college in the United States. He received a bachelor’s degree from Middlebury College in Vermont.

- 1831 – Nat Turner was an African-American slave who led a two-day rebellion of slaves and free blacks in Southampton County, Virginia on August 21, 1831. The rebellion caused the death of approximately sixty white men, women and children.

- 1833 – Oberlin College in Ohio is founded. It opened its doors to blacks and women.

- 1837 – The African Institute aka Cheyney University of Pennsylvania was founded.

- 1839 – The Amistad case is won. In February of 1839, Portuguese slave hunters abducted a large group of Africans from Sierra Leone and shipped them to Havana, Cuba, a center for

the slave trade. This abduction violated all of the treaties then in existence. Two Spanish plantation owners, Pedro Montes and Jose Ruiz, purchased 53 Africans and put them aboard the Cuban schooner Amistad to ship them to a Caribbean plantation. On July 1, 1839, the Africans seized the ship, killed the captain and the cook, and ordered Montes and Ruiz to sail to Africa. John Quincy Adam was one of the lawyers for the slaves.

- 1842 – William Henry Johnson may actually have been the first African American eligible to practice law. Johnson could have begun practicing in 1842.

- 1844 – Macon Allen became the first African American admitted to the bar to practice law in the United States.

- 1849 – Henry “Box” Brown mails himself to freedom.

- 1849 – Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and becomes one of the most effective and celebrated leaders of the Underground Railroad.

- 1851 - Sojourner Truth gave her famous, “Ain’t I A Woman?” speech at the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention.

- 1857 – The infamous Supreme Court Dred Scott decision ruled March 6, 1857 that Scott was not a citizen and could not sue in a federal court.

- 1865 – 1877 Reconstruction is a period in the U.S. History that followed the American Civil War where attempts were made to redress the inequities of slavery. President Rutherford B. Hayes ended Reconstruction with the Compromise of 1877 when he removed the federal troops from the South.

- 1865 – Congress passed the 13th Amendment which states that “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to the jurisdiction.”

- 1865 – Black Codes were laws passed by southern states in 1865 and 1866 with the intent of restricting African Americans freedom and voting rights.

- 1865 – March – The Freedmen’s Bureau was established by Congress to help millions of former slaves and poor whites in the South in the aftermath of the Civil War.

- 1866 – The 14th Amendment is passed by Congress as one of the Reconstruction amendments. It granted all persons born or naturalized in the United States citizenship and equal protection under the law.

- 1870 – The Fifteen Amendment is passed. It granted black men the right to vote.

- 1870 – February 1870 (to March 3, 1871), Hiram Rhodes Revels became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Congress when he was elected to the United States Senate as a Republican to represent Mississippi in 1870 and 1871 during the Reconstruction era. He was also the first president of Alcorn State University.

- 1872 – Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback (born Pinckney Benton Stewart May 10, 1837) was an American publisher and politician, a Union Army officer and the first African American to become governor of a U.S. state. A Republican, Pinchback served as the 24th

governor of Louisiana from December 9, 1872 to January 13, 1873. He was one of the most prominent African-American officeholders during the Reconstruction Era.

- 1875 – Civil Rights Act granting African Americans equal access to public accommodations, including transportation.

- 1877 – The Compromise of 1877 was an informal, unwritten deal that settled the intensely disputed 1876 U.S. presidential election. It resulted in the United States federal government pulling the last troops out of the South, and formally ended the Reconstruction Era. Through the Compromise, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was awarded the White House.

- 1883 – George Washington Williams published his History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1880. Williams was a member of the first generation of African Americans to study, research and write the history of the Negro in America.

- 1895 – WEB DuBois is the first African American to earn a Ph.D from Harvard University.

- 1896 – The historic Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson made “separate but equal” racial segregation legal in public places.

- 1901 – All black people were forced out of office by germanding.

- 1903 – W.C. Handy encounters the blues at the train station in Tutwiler, MS.

- 1909 – NAACP is founded.

- 1915 – March 21, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson attended a special screening at the White House of The Birth of a Nation, a film directed by D.W. Griffith and based on The Clansman, a novel written by Wilson’s good friend Thomas Dixon. The film presented a distorted portrait of the South after the Civil War, glorifying the Ku Klux Klan and denigrating blacks. It falsified the period of Reconstruction by presenting blacks as dominating Southern whites (almost all of whom are noble in the film) and sexually forcing themselves upon white women. The Klan was portrayed as the South’s savior from this alleged tyranny. Not only was this portrayal untrue, it was the opposite of what actually happened. During Reconstruction, whites dominated blacks and assaulted black women. The Klan was primarily a white terrorist organization that carried out hundreds of murders.

- 1919 – Red Summer is a period in 1919 when white supremacist terrorized more than three dozen cities across the United States.

- 1921 – Black Wall Street is bombed. Black wall street was a wealthy and thriving African American neighborhood in Greenwood district of Tulsa Oklahoma. Blacks owned hundreds of businesses. They owned their own schools, hospitals and businesses. The story is that 17 year old white Sarah Page accused 19 year old Dick Rowland, who is black, of sexual assault. A group of angry white men stormed into Greenwood with guns. Homes and businesses were set afire. Airplanes were used to drop bombs on the black community.

- 1926 – Carter G. Woodson

founded Negro Histroy Week.

- 1954 – On May 17, the Supreme Court overturned Plessy (1896) in its ruling in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. The landmark decision ruled that racial segregation was unconstitutional.

- 1955 – Aug 28 – Emmet Till is murdered in Money, MS. His death galvanized the Civil Rights Movement.

- Dec. 1 – Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama. She said she thought about Emmett Till when she was asked to move to the back of the bus.

- 1955 Dec. 5 – The Montgomery Bus Boycott started and lasted 381 days changing public transportation forever.

- 1957 – Civil Rights Act is passed.

- 1960 – On November 14, 1960, federal marshals escorted Ruby Bridges and her mother to William Frantz Elementary School for Ruby’s first day of school. Angry white protestors lined the streets and shouted threats. The moment became the subject of the famous painting “The Problem We All Must Live With” by Norman Rockwell.

- 1963 – Medgar Wiley Evers was an African-American civil rights activist in Mississippi, the state’s field secretary for the NAACP and a World War II veteran. He worked to overturn segregation at the University of Mississippi, end the segregation of public facilities and expand opportunities for African Americans, which included the enforcement of voting rights. He was assassinated by Byron de la Beckwith, a white supremacist and Klansman.

- 1963 – September 15, 1963, the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed by four members of a Ku Klux Klan-affiliated racist group. Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley were killed.

- 1964 – Freedom Summer of 1964 or the Mississippi Summer Project, was a volunteer campaign launched in June 1964 to attempt to register black voters.

- 1964 – Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner, three Civil Rights workers, are murdered in Philadelphia, MS.

- 1964 – The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a landmark civil rights and U.S. labor law in the United States that outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It prohibits unequal application of voter registration requirements, racial segregation in schools, employment and public accommodations.

- 1965 – February 21 – Malcolm X was assassinated in New York City.

- 1966 – Edward W. Brooke’s election to the U.S. Senate in 1966 ended an 85-year absence of African-American senators. Brooke was the first popularly elected senator and the first black politician from Massachusetts to serve in Congress.

- 1968 – April 4, 1968 – Dr. King is murdered in Memphis, TN

- 1968 – Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected in 1968, and represented the state of New York

- 1969 – Charles Evers was

elected the first black mayor since Reconstruction in Fayette, MS.

- 1969 - Alexander v. Holmes County case help desegregate schools in the south.

- 1977 – Eddie J. Carthan is elected the first black president of the Holmes County School Board.

- 1981 – Eddie J. Carthan was elected the first black mayor of Tchula, MS.

- 1990 Lawrence Douglas Wilder is an American lawyer and politician who served as the 66th governor of Virginia, from 1990 to 1994. He was the first African American to serve as governor of a U.S. state since Reconstruction, and the first elected African-American governor.

- 2009 –March 9 – Barack Obama is elected the 44th president of the United states of America becoming the first black president. He served two terms.

- 2012 – On February 26, 2012, Trayvon Martin, 17, an unarmed teenager, was killed by George Zimmerman inspiring the launch of the Black Lives Matter Movement after the acquittal of Zimmerman.

- 2013 – The Black Lives Matter Movement began after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of African American Trayvon Martin in February 2012. Since then, thousands have marched around the world to demonstrate outrage against the deaths of numerous African Americans like Michael Broan, Eric Garner, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many many others.

- 2016 – Quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his San Francisco 49ers teammates Eric Reid and Eli Harold kneeled during the national anthem before the game against the Seattle Seahawks to draw attention to police brutality. Other players followed suit in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

- 2020 – On February 23, three white men in a pickup truck kills 25 year old Ahmad Arbery while he was out on a run. The men filmed the murder and was arrested a month later.

- 2020 – Twenty-six year old Breonna Taylor was shot eight times and killed after the police broke down the door to her apartment while executing a no-knock nighttime warrant. No one was held accountable for Breonna’s murder.

- 2020 –On May 25 the world watched as officer Derek Chauvin killed 46-year-old George Floyd while handcuffed and pinned to the ground with his knee on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds.

- 2020 – In June, after 122 years the Mississippi Legislature voted to remove the old Confederate battle flag as the official state flag after pressure from coaches, players and pastors.

- 2021 – January 2021 – Democratic Senator Kamala Harris became the first Asian-American and African-American woman to become vice-president of the United States of America.

We are history and we must continue telling our stories. Happy Black History Month.

Ben Crump and daughters of Malcolm X reveal NYPD officer's 'death bed' confession of NYPD/FBI conspiracy

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Almost 56 years to the Feb. 21, 1965, assassination of Malcolm X, the slain leader's daughters and a noted civil rights attorney are shining a light on those whom they believe are responsible for the heartless murder.

The group gathered Saturday, Feb. 20, at the old Audubon Ballroom – since renamed The Shabazz Center – with lawyers Ray Hamlin, Paul Napoli and Reggie Wood, whose relative, NYPD Officer Ray Wood, allegedly confessed in a deathbed declaration letter.

The gathering occurred in the same venue as the assassination and just one day before the heinous crime's anniversary.

The new allegations focus on Wood and a conspiracy against organized civil rights groups that he said had been perpetrated by the New York City Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Reggie Wood alleges that authorities conspired to assassinate Malcolm X in Harlem.

"Ray Wood, an undercover police officer at the time, confessed in a deathbed declaration letter that the NYPD and



Wood's purported death bed letter was delivered to three of Malcolm's daughters – Qubilah, Ilyasah and Gamilah, pictured here with Attorneys Benjamin Crump, Ray Hamlin and Paul Napoli along with Reggie Wood, whose relative, NYPD Officer Ray Wood, allegedly confessed in a deathbed declaration letter.

the FBI conspired to undermine the legitimacy of the civil rights movement and its leaders," Crump stated.

"Without any training, Wood's job was to infiltrate civil rights organizations and encourage leaders and members to commit felonious acts," Crump noted in a news release before the gathering.

"He was also tasked with ensuring that Malcolm X's security detail was arrested days prior to the assassination,

guaranteeing Malcolm X didn't have door security while at the Audubon Ballroom, where he was killed Feb. 21, 1965."

Wood's purported death bed letter was delivered to three of Malcolm's daughters – Qubilah, Ilyasah and Gamilah.

Reggie Wood, the administrator of Ray Wood's estate, read the letter to Malcolm's daughters.

Ray Wood served as an undercover New York City police officer with the Bureau of Spe-

cial Services and Investigation (BOSSI).

Reportedly, he earned a reputation for infiltrating the Bronx Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) chapter under the name Ray Woodall in 1964.

According to a report in *The Guardian*, Wood posed as a 27-year-old graduate of Manhattan College studying law at Fordham University.

"He was soon named CORE's housing chairman and oversaw

a voter registration project," *The Guardian* reported.

"Wood earned his activist bonafides by getting arrested with two others at city hall while attempting a citizen's arrest of Mayor Wagner for allowing racial discrimination on a public construction project," the U.K.-based newspaper published.

By 1965, Wood had been re-assigned to infiltrate a group calling itself the Black Liberation Movement (BLM) and

received credit for defusing a plot to bomb the Statue of Liberty.

Three men were convicted of Malcolm X's 1965 murder.

Talmadge Hayer, who later changed his name to Mujahid Abdul Halim, was the only one to admit guilt in the assassination.

Norman Butler, who later changed his name to Muhammad Abdul Aziz, and Thomas Johnson, later named Khalil Islam, maintained their innocence.

Aziz won parole in 1985; Islam was released in 1987, and Halim was released in 2010.

Islam died in 2009.

A Netflix documentary, "Who Killed Malcolm X?," was released last year and featured interviews conducted by Abdur-Rahman Muhammad, an activist and investigator who said he dedicated his life to solving Malcolm's murder.

Following the documentary's release, the Manhattan District Attorney's office announced it would review the case and reopen it if they found new evidence.

Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr., could not immediately be reached for comment.



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President Biden applauded for reopening of Obamacare enrollment

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

After four years of the previous administration's efforts to destroy the Affordable Care Act (ACA), President Joe Biden has moved swiftly to repair damage done to President Obama's signature legislation.

The Biden administration has reopened enrollment at Healthcare.gov through May 15 – though the timeline varies depending on the state – to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to obtain coverage.

The move is especially important as the nation continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed more than 480,000 American lives.

Marcela Howell, president and CEO of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, applauded the new enrollment window and encouraged all without health insurance – especially in communities of color – to act now to enroll.

"We know that before the passage of the ACA, people of



According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about 9 million uninsured Americans are estimated to obtain free or subsidized health insurance during the special enrollment period.

color accounted for 54 percent of the uninsured in the United States, even though they only make up 35 percent of the population. Black women and other women of color – who already face systemic barriers to accessing health care – were disproportionately impacted," Howell determined.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about 9 million uninsured Americans are estimated to obtain free or subsidized health insurance during the special enrollment period.

Further, for those earning up to 400 percent of the federal poverty line – about \$51,500

for one person and \$106,000 for a family of four, government subsidies are available.

About 90 percent of those who sign up through Healthcare.gov receive subsidies, recent data revealed.

Popularly known as Obamacare, former President Barack Obama signed the ACA into

law in 2010. The law expanded Medicaid and significantly lowered the cost of insurance for many Americans, particularly low-income residents.

According to statista.com, the full effects of Obamacare weren't seen until 2013, when government-run insurance marketplaces such as Healthcare.gov were opened. The number of Americans without health insurance fell significantly between 2010 and 2015, but began to rise after 2016 when Donald Trump took office and spent four years attempting to outlaw and dismantle the ACA.

Reportedly, during the first half of 2019, over 27 percent of the Hispanic population in the United States didn't have health insurance, up from a historical low of 19.3 percent in 2016. In 2019, the national average was 9.5 percent and Asian Americans had the lowest rate at 7.4 percent. White Americans also had a below average rate at 9.8 percent, whereas 13.6 percent of Black Africans had no health insurance.


ance.

"During the last administration, due to actions to undermine enrollment, the number of people without health insurance increased for the first time since the ACA went into effect," Howell noted further.

"Now we have a chance to provide health insurance for more people. We applaud the Biden-Harris administration for taking decisive action to make health insurance coverage more accessible by reopening enrollment for three months. Doing so surely will save lives and help protect people against financial insecurity."

She continued:

"We strongly urge those who are uninsured – especially women and people of color – to act now to enroll. Visit www.healthcare.gov to enroll. Given that states with their own insurance exchanges may have different enrollment periods, it is important for people without insurance to act immediately so they don't miss the opportunity to get coverage."



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She bought freedom for herself and other slaves

Today a park in D.C. is named in her honor

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

In her early years, Alethia Browning Tanner sold vegetables in a produce stall near President’s Square – now known as Lafayette Square – in what is now Northwest Washington, D.C.

According to the D.C. Genealogy Research, Resources and Records, Tanner bought her freedom in 1810 and later purchased several relatives’ release.

She was the first woman on the Roll of Members of the Union Bethel AME Church (now Metropolitan AME Church on M Street), and Turner owned land and a store at 14th and H Streets, which she left to her nephews – one of whom later sold the property for \$100,000.

Named in her honor, the Alethia Tanner Park is located at 227 Harry Thomas Way in Northeast DC.

The park sits near the corner of Harry Thomas Way and Q Street and is accessible by foot or bike via the Metropolitan Branch Trail, just north of the Florida Ave entrances.

“At the first council legislative meeting of Black History Month,



Alethia Browning Tanner worked to purchase the freedom of more than 20 of her relatives and neighbors, mostly the family of her older sister Laurana including Laurana herself, her children, and her grandchildren.

the council took a second and final vote on naming the new park for Alethia Tanner, an amazing woman who is more than worthy of this long-delayed recognition,” Ward 5 Councilman Kenyan

McDuffie said in 2020 ahead of the park’s naming ceremony.

“[Her upbringing] itself would be a remarkable legacy, but Ms. Tanner was also active in founding and supporting many educa-

tional, religious and civic institutions,” McDuffie remarked.

“She contributed funds to start the first school for free black children in Washington, the Bell School. Feeling unwelcome at her predominately segregated church, she and other church members founded the Israel Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. When the church fell on hard times and was sold at auction by creditors, she and her family stepped in and repurchased the church.”

Born in 1781 on a plantation owned by Tobias and Mary Belt in Prince George’s County, Maryland, historians noted that Tanner had two sisters, Sophia Bell and Laurena Cook.

“Upon the death of Mary Pratt (Tobias had predeceased his wife) in 1795, the plantation, known as Chelsea Plantation, was inherited by their daughter Rachel Belt Pratt,” historians wrote.

“Mary Belt’s will stipulated that Laurena be sent to live with a sibling of Rachel Pratt’s while Sophia and Alethia were to stay at the Chelsea Plantation.”

Tanner sold vegetables at the well-known market just north of

the White House in Presidents Park. It is possible – and probable – she met Thomas Jefferson there as he was known to frequent the vegetable markets there along with other prominent early Washingtonians, according to historians at attacksadams.com.

“There are also White House records suggesting she worked for Thomas Jefferson in some capacity, likely doing various housework tasks,” the researchers determined.

Tanner saved enough money to purchase her freedom in 1810. “The total amount, thought to have been paid in installments, was \$1,400. In 1810, \$1,400 was a significant amount; about the equivalent of three years’ earnings for an average skilled tradesperson,” attacksadams.com researchers surmised.

“Self-emancipation was not an option for all enslaved peoples, but both Alethia and her sister Sophia were able to accomplish this, almost entirely through selling vegetables at the market,” the researchers continued.

“Alethia Tanner moved to D.C. and became one of a significant and growing number of free

black people in the district. In 1800, 793 free black people were living in D.C.

By 1810, there were 2,549, and by 1860, 11,131 free black people lived in D.C., more than the number of enslaved peoples.”

Historians wrote that beginning at about 15 years after securing her manumission, Alethia Tanner worked to purchase the freedom of more than 20 of her relatives and neighbors, mostly the family of her older sister Laurana including Laurana herself, her children, and her grandchildren.

All in all, Tanner would have paid the Pratt family well over \$5,000. All accomplished with proceeds from her own vegetable market business, they concluded.

“Alethia Tanner, it’s an amazing story of resilience, hard work, and perseverance,” D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation Director Delano Hunter said at the park’s dedication.

“I just learned about this history through this, so it shows how when you name a park, you really educate people on the historical significance.”

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The City of Jackson is committed to the principle 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 precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson’s Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City’s Ordinance 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 601-960-1055. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, 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, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids can be submitted at www.centralbidding.com. For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

by: LaTonya Miller, Manager
Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR CITY CENTER DRUGS

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR CITY CENTER DRUGS TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

2-18-2021 2-25-2021

LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bid
Bid 3172 Bailey APAC Middle School Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 01, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project, Bailey APAC Middle School Renovations will be held at Bailey APAC Middle School, 1900 N. State Street, Jackson MS 39202, Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsdm-projects.com. A \$100.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Jennifer Seymour at Eley Guild Hardy, Phone: 228-594-2323 or Email: jseymour@egh.ms.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSPD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
JACKSON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

I. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. CASE NO. 2021-05, REQUESTED BY: MICHELLE ENGLER TO UPDATE THE CURRENT CRASHED ROCK DRIVEWAY WITH NEW LIMESTONE AND TO CONSTRUCT AN 8FT TALL GOOD NEIGHBOR WOODEN FENCE TO THE PROPERTY AT 1011 HARDING ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HEIGHTS HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

2. CASE NO. 2021-06, REQUESTED BY: JOHN WOFFORD TO REPLACE THE DAMAGED WOOD SIDING ON FRONT HOUSE WITH SIMILAR WOOD AND REPAINT TO EXISTING COLOR; TO ADD SHUTTERS TO FRONT SIDE OF HOUSE; AND TO MODIFY AND REPAIR GARAGE AT 1723 PEACHTREE ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

3. CASE NO. 2021-07, REQUESTED BY: HULON CARR TO KEEP THE NEWLY ADDED AWNING ON THE FRONT WINDOW TO PROTECT WINDOWS FROM MOISTURE AND SUN AT 1168/1170 QUINN ST. LOCATED IN THE BELHAVEN HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

4. CASE NO. 2021-08, REQUESTED BY: MARC ROWE TO REHAB THE HOUSE AT 111 E. CHURCH ST. LOCATED IN THE FARISH HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

5. CASE NO. 2021-09, REQUESTED BY: MARC ROWE TO REHAB THE HOUSE AT 117 E. CHURCH ST. LOCATED IN THE FARISH HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

6. CASE NO. 2021-10, REQUESTED BY: MARC ROWE TO REHAB THE HOUSE AT 134 E. CHURCH ST. LOCATED IN THE FARISH HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

7. CASE NO. 2021-11, REQUESTED BY: MARC ROWE TO REHAB THE HOUSE AT 136 E. CHURCH ST. LOCATED IN THE FARISH HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

II. OTHER ITEMS

1. ADMINISTRATIVELY APPROVED COAS

III. ADJOURN

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

2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
SIGN VARIANCE FOR BKD CPAS AND ADVISORS

THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR BKD CPAS AND ADVISORS TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE CITY HALL BUILDING, 219 SOUTH PRESIDENT STREET, JACKSON, MS, 39201. INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT THE SIGNS & LICENSE DIVISION (601) 960-1154 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

2-18-2021 2/25/2021

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†AT&T Smart Home Manager is available to AT&T Internet service customers with a compatible AT&T Wi-Fi Gateway. Features limited to home Wi-Fi network.
‡Parental Controls and Data Usage features available with DIRECTV, DISH, and NVCSP Wi-Fi Gateway.
§AT&T Smart Wi-Fi requires installation of a R60W110, S208AC, or NVCSP Wi-Fi Gateway. Standard with Internet plans (12M or higher). Whole-home Wi-Fi connectivity may require AT&T Smart Wi-Fi (sold separately). Offers may not be combined with other promotional offers on the same service and may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice. Other conditions apply to all offers. ©2020 AT&T Intellectual Property. All Rights Reserved. AT&T, the AT&T logo and all other AT&T marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

LEGAL

Advertisement for Electronic Bid
Bid 3171 Interior Upgrades for Northwest Middle School

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) April 06, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Interior Upgrades for Northwest Middle School project will be held at 7020 Highway 49 N, Jackson, MS 39213, Tuesday, March 09, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$ 150.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, or Email: contact@durrelldesigngroup.com.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSPD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

2-25-2021, 3-4-2021

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids
Bid 3169 Roof Replacement for Whitten Middle School
Bid 3170 Walkways and Building Joints Improvements for Whitten Middle School

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 31, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Roof Replacement for Whitten Middle School project will be held at 210 Daniel Lake Boulevard, Jackson, MS 39212, Monday, March 08, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Walkways and Building Joints Improvements for Whitten Middle School project will be held at 210 Daniel Lake Boulevard, Jackson, MS 39212, Monday, March 08, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsdmsprojects.com. A \$ 150.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions

regarding bid documents please contact Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, or Email: contact@durrelldesigngroup.com.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSPD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

1994 TOYT UDX Vin # 1NXAE09B1RZ208688
Registered to: Roach Wanda
New South Federal Savings Bank, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: Feb.. 26, 2021

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.
Time: 10:00 A.M.

2-11-2021, 2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

2013 Niss Rogue Sport Utility Vehicle Vin # JN8AS5MT4DW552303
Registered to: Allen Bernard
Americredit Financial Services, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: Feb.. 26, 2021

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.

Time: 10:00 A.M.

2-11-2021, 2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

Notice of Sale
Abandoned Vehicle

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

1999 Niss Frontion Vin # 1N6ED26YXXC343861
Registered to: Harold D. Johnson
Matthew B. Regan, Lien Holder
Date of Sale: Feb.. 26, 2021

Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213
Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids.

Time: 10:00 A.M.

2-11-2021, 2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids
Bid 3166 Boyd Elementary School Restroom Renovations

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 24, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the project for Boyd Elementary School Restroom Renovations will be held at Boyd Elementary School, 4531 Broadmeadow St, on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsmsprojects.com. A \$100.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Jennifer Seymour at Eley Guild Hardy, Phone: 228-594-2323 or Email: jseymour@egh.ms.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSPD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

LEGAL

Electronic Bidding
Advertisement for Bids
Bid 3167 Smyth Elementary School Renovations
Bid 3168 Sykes Elementary School Renovations

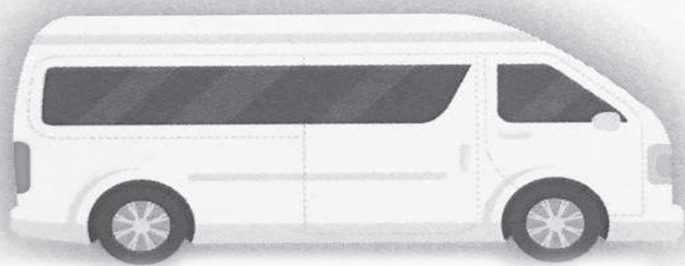
Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bids will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) March 26, 2021 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Smith Elementary School Renovations project will be held at 3900 Parkway Avenue, Jackson, MS 39213, Monday, March 08, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. A Pre-Bid Conference concerning the Sykes Elementary School Renovations project will be held at 3555 Simpson Street, Jackson, MS 39212, Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened.

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at www.jpdsdmsprojects.com. A \$ 150.00 Non-refundable deposit shall be required on each printed set of bid specs/documents. A \$100.00 Nonrefundable deposit shall be required on each digital PDF set of bid specs/documents. Documents must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders, please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Joseph Crain at Eley Guild Hardy Architects, Phone: 228-594-2323, or Email: jcrain@egh.ms.

Until further notice, all hand delivery proposals delivered between 9:00 a.m. until 9:59 a.m. (local prevailing time) the date the bid is scheduled to open, must be delivered to JPSPD Board Room, 621 South State Street, Jackson, MS 39201.

2-18-2021, 2-25-2021

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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. Compass point

4. Moves effortlessly

10. Auto

11. Little __ Annie

12. Regret

13. Percussion rattle

14. Undetected

16. Clean

17. Sheet of matted cotton

18. General practitioner

20. I see

22. Scotsman

26. Charge

29. Feble-mindedness

31. Elite Greek infantry member

33. American College of Physicians (abbr.)

34. Long scolding

35. Second day of the wk.

36. Noisy situation

37. Internal Revenue Service
- DOWN**

1. Scour

2. Steam room

3. Nab

4. Approach

5. Great ape

6. Spr.. month

7. Pillow covering

8. Mexican sandwich

9. Join together

15. Estimated time of arrival

19. Pressure unit

21. Large eastern religion

23. Raccoon-like animal

24. Take place

25. Kinds

26. Soft cheese from Greece

27. Vile

28. Jewish scribe

30. Hold

32. Paddle

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Sudoku

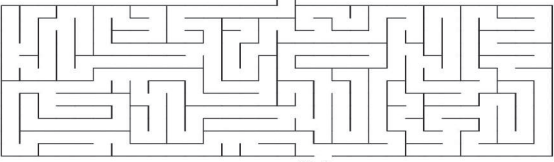
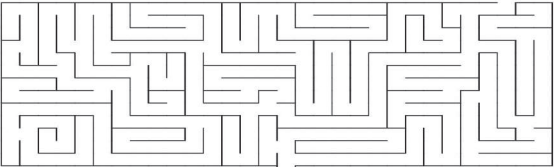
The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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

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Kidz Maze Mania

Help the chimpanzee get to the his lion friend at the end of the maze.



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Crossword Solution

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

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Sudoku Solution

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

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Capitol Street and Monument Street

CITY HALL

219 S President St

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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.

MCDADÉ'S MARKET

Northside Drive

MCDADÉ'S MARKET #2

653 Duling Avenue

PICADILLY CAFETERIA

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350 W Woodrow Wilson Avenue

SHELL FOOD MART

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SPORTS MEDICINE

Fortification and I-55

MURPHY USA

6394 Ridgewood Rd (North Jackson)

REVELL ACE HARDWARE

Terry Rd (South Jackson)

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B & B

702 West North Street - Canton, MS

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BULLY'S STORE

Church Street - Canton, MS

COMMUNITY MART

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HAMLIN FLORAL DESIGN

285 Peace Street - Canton, MS

JOE'S SANDWICH & GROCERY

507 Church Street - Canton, MS

K & K ONE STOP

110 West Fulton Street - Canton, MS

LACY'S INSURANCE

421 Peace Street - Canton, MS

SOUL SET BARBER SHOP

257 Peace Street - Canton, MS

TRAILER PARK GROCERY

22 Westside Drive - Canton, MS

BYRAM

DOLLAR GENERAL

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HAVIOR'S AUTO CARE

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CITY HALL

Terry Road

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DOLLAR GENERAL

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TERRY

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CITY HALL

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RAYMOND

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WELCOME CENTER

505 E. Main Street

SUNFLOWER GROCERY

122 Old Port Gibson Street,

Raymond, MS

LOVE FOOD MART

120 E. Main Street,

Raymond, MS

RAYMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

126 W. Court Street, Raymond, MS

RAYMOND CITY HALL

110 Courtyard Square, Raymond

RAYMOND COURTHOUSE

UTICA

HUBBARD'S TRUCK STOP

Mississippi Hwy 18

PITT STOP

101 Hwy 18 & 27

BOLTON

BOLTON LIBRARY

BOLTON CITY HALL

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Week of February 28, 2020

Defund the police... Say whaaaaat?

By Leon Williams
Contributing Writer



When it comes to delicate social matters, the United States continues to grapple with looking the other way. Nothing is more provocative than the issue of policing. Emotions are hardwired on opposing sides of the topic. The sub-texture of race and racial reconciliation operates as the not always apparent engine powering the debate.

During a televised townhall, February 16, one of the questions posed to President Biden sought this position on defunding the police. Biden showed no hesitation in saying he does not support the notion of defunding the police. In fact, he was unyielding in his sentiment and said he would “put more money in for police.”

The backstory here is Biden’s political need to placate the center faction of both the Democrat and Republican Party.

After the townhall, television news outlets spent considerable

time discussing Bidens position. CNN aired a segment with the following headline: “Biden opposes defunding the police. Here’s what that means.”

According to global data collection company Statista, between 2017 and 2021 there were 3,334 people shot and killed by police. People of color comprise 33% of the U.S. population, but make up nearly 50% of those killed, many of whom were unarmed. In nearly every case, no charges were brought against police officers, or police were acquitted. This dynamic, coupled with police brutality and racially unequal arrest patterns, is in great part, what fuels the defund the police movement across the nation.

In many metropolitan areas there is a popular illegal con game known as Three-card Monte. The gist of the game, dating back to the 15th century, is to create a very plausible illusion to take money from unsuspecting victims. In fact, the ruse is so effective, the victim can never win because everyone in the game is

in cahoots against him. Truth be told, the hoopla around defunding the police is a red herring because, much like Three-card Monte, the focus has been on defunding the police instead of where it belongs.

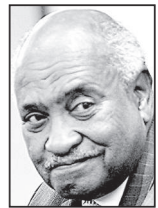
Rectification is simple: Hold Police Legally Accountable For Improper Behavior. The full weight of State and Federal law should be leveraged against police officers who behave illegally. In fact, the standard should be higher for them than for regular citizens because of the breach of public trust and violation of the sworn oaths of duty.

In every case where black and brown people have been suspiciously killed by police, grieving loved ones and families plead for justice. The plea for justice is not only to assuage devastating emotional harm, but also to prevent future infractions.

Hefty legal expenses, leg irons, the clink of handcuffs and lengthy prison sentences will go a long way in dramatically reducing improper police behavior.

A question for black Americans: Vaccine or body bag?

By Dr. John Warren
San Diego Voice and Viewpoint/NNPA Member



Today there is a crisis in black America that is greater than the Tuskegee experiment itself. That experiment for more than 30 years deliberately used black men as lab rats to test the effects of syphilis infected with venereal disease. It took over 30 years, but the experiments were discovered and exposed. The people conducting those experiments were all white. But some things have changed. One such change is the presence of black scientists engaged in research affecting black people.

Today in the case of the development of a vaccine to fight COVID-19, a female black scientist named Dr. Kizmekia Corbett, at the National Institutes of Health’s Vaccine Research Center has led the research.

She has been the lead scientist in the development of one of the two vaccines currently being used.

But black people, who are at the greatest risk of dying from COVID-19, have the lowest rate of receiving the vaccine, it appears, for two reasons: one, we have logistical issues of appointment, locations and transportation; and two, we actually have people refusing to take the vaccine in spite of current scientific data developed by a black scientist that proves the vaccines save lives.

No one is thinking of forcing any of us to take the vaccine if we decide not to. But we should understand that the virus and its developing mutations, which have taken almost 500,000 lives in the United States alone, appears to come down to two choices: the vaccine or a body bag.

The body bag is what we use to remove the bodies of those who die, regardless of the cause. Those who refuse

to take the vaccine should know that you become possible transmitters of the virus, if not affected directly yourself. This means that family and loved ones can die as a result of contact with those who have not taken the vaccine as a means of stopping the transmission of the virus.

This also means that until such time as we have full vaccinations of the entire country, those of us who have not had the vaccine yet will have to rethink our personal relationships with those close to us who refuse to take the vaccine. Let us not forget that each person has a right to refuse the vaccine, but that right must not get confused with our right to choose to live.


The choice really is between the vaccine and the body bag.

We know the body bags will go to those who did not take the vaccines first, but will their refusal cause others among us to die and get a body bag also?



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How can we narrow the black homeownership gap?

By **Chuck Bishop**
Head of Diverse Segments for Wells Fargo Home Lending

Despite ongoing challenges due to the pandemic, black Americans joined the many homebuyers looking for a space to call their own during the past year. But even against that backdrop, the homeownership gap for the black community remains significant, and concerns remain about the overall effect the pandemic-slowed economy and historic challenges will have on long-term homeownership goals.

During Black History Month, and throughout the year, it's important to acknowledge the challenges the black community faces when it comes to homeownership and racial equity, and also acknowledge the important work that remains. That's especially true considering how far behind the homeownership rate for the black community lags compared to other communities in America, and how important owning a home is to achieving the American Dream and building long-term wealth.

The homeownership rate for black families is nearly 30 percentage points lower than that for white families, according to a recent analysis by the National Association of Realtors. A recent Urban Institute report warns that if no policy measures are taken to address the significant homeownership gap, homeownership rates will continue to fall further behind, likely pushing more members of the black



community into renting as they age.

The black community also continues to face significant barriers to homebuying. Saving for a down payment, building credit and finding affordable homes are challenges for many Americans, but can be even more so for potential homebuyers in the black community.

According to a 2020 report from the Urban Institute, black households have the lowest median FICO score among all racial and ethnic groups and the greatest share of households with no credit score at all. Serving these households requires lenders and other stakeholders to work toward new solutions. The Office of the

Comptroller of the Currency's Project REACH, which we are a part of as both a founding participant and as the lead of its affordable homeownership work group, is one spot where the industry is joining hands with policy makers to address issues.

At Wells Fargo, we are committed to taking steps to increase homeownership within the black community. In 2017, we announced a commitment to help increase African-American homeownership that includes \$60 billion in purchase lending to create at least 250,000 homeowners over the next 10 years; a focus on increasing the diversity of our sales team including African-American home mort-

gage consultants; and dedicating \$15 million toward initiatives that promote homebuyer education and counseling. While we have made progress, creating more than 72,000 homeowners to date, much work remains.

As a lender, we look to support homeownership in a number of ways, from offering a broad array of products to providing high quality education to consumers. We offer educational tools about the home lending process, building credit and other important financial topics, including an interactive experience at myfirsthome.wf.com.

We also try to strategize on ways to share information through com-

munity organizations and outreach. Our home mortgage consultants also are ready to guide potential homebuyers through the process, even if they aren't ready to purchase right away. We encourage potential homebuyers to find out where they stand financially, and then come up with a plan, including seeking HUD-approved homebuyer education and counseling from a nonprofit housing provider. Too many potential buyers wrongly assume that their credit isn't good enough or that they don't have enough funds saved for a down payment.

We also encourage potential buyers not to get overwhelmed by the concept of a down payment. Wells Fargo offers low down payment options that can help potential buyers get past that savings hurdle. Buyers can achieve their homeownership goals with as little as 3% down, giving them flexibility to decide how much of their savings to devote to a down payment, and how much to keep for a rainy day. In addition, a number of organizations have down payment assistance programs available that may also help.

There is no single solution that will solve the challenges facing black homeowners, but there are many steps that we can take to narrow the homeownership gap. We continue to evaluate the ways we can help customers and our communities become stronger and help more members of the black community achieve the dream of homeownership.

Veterans deserve better educational opportunities

By **Harry C. Alford**
NNPA News Wire Columnist



As a veteran who served my country, I feel strongly that others who serve are entitled to leave the military with an education and get further educated so they can advance in civilian society. It's one of the most important things we can do to support the men and women who would die to protect us.

Yet Democrats in Congress are now moving forward with a secretive plan, in the guise of helping veterans, that would fundamentally limit both how students can fund their higher education and how veterans can use their earned benefits. Lawmakers are trying to insert into the unrelated COVID relief bill a provision to change the so-called 90/10 rule, a move that could potentially disrupt the education of thousands of veterans who attend proprietary institutions.

Activists claim that the rule gives so-called predatory schools an incentive to recruit veterans, since it doesn't count GI Bill benefits as federal revenue. In actuality, altering the rule would force veterans and other students to come up with more money to fund their education, money many don't have.

That's not helping veterans, it's hurting them.

I recently warned something like this could happen. If this provision is allowed to stay in

the package, it would put more financial strain on our current and past service members, many of whom are not traditional brick-and-mortar college students, and would be ignorant to the reality of people from economically disadvantaged communities or working parents juggling multiple responsibilities.

One of the veterans who would have been hurt by this change is Shawn Joy. A retired Air Force master sergeant who served for more than two decades, he obtained his undergraduate and master's degrees from Trident University International, which is part of the American InterContinental University system.

In a recent conversation with Shawn, he raved about the experience. The curriculum, he said, was excellent. His wife claimed it was more challenging than hers at a brick and mortar college. Teachers and administrators were supportive and the benefits were nothing short of amazing.

Working full-time while attending his online degree programs, Shawn started as a cashier at an Air Force base, making GS-3 level wages. Now, he is a GS-12 working in human resources and information systems for the Air Force, and he credits his education for the advancements.

If he had been forced to seek other sources of funding beyond his GI Bill benefits by a change in 90/10, however, Shawn said he may not have sought a degree at all.

Shawn, who is 48 and married with children, said he especially loved the flexibility that his school offered. He is not alone. As two retired military officials recently noted, many veterans "prefer the student-focused, flexible schedules, mostly online instruction" of proprietary universities like Trident.

A decision to change 90/10, especially without public debate, would affect many of these hard-working veterans and other students in potentially drastic ways. In fact, a just-released study concluded that altering the formula could cause nearly 100,000 veterans, service members and their families to lose their education benefits.

Even more unsettling, the effects would be especially pronounced for the types of minority students I work with at the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

I know that Washington is often filled with bad ideas. But that doesn't mean the citizenry has to stand by and accept them. The evidence shows that changing 90/10 is a bad idea. And doing it by sneaking the provision into a COVID relief bill – and not separating it out to be judged on its own merits – is even worse.

Congress should reject this ill-advised idea. Our student veterans deserve nothing less.

Alford is the co-founder, president/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. www.nationalbcc.org halford@nationalbcc.org



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If a stranger offers you student loan forgiveness, hang up

By Anna Helhoski
NerdWallet

Student loan scammers have a brand-new hook: “Biden student loan forgiveness” or “stimulus forgiveness.”

Behind the pitch is the same old fraudster playbook, one that persuades federal student loan borrowers to pay for services they could get for free or to share personal account information in exchange for forgiveness.

The extended pause on federal student loan payments and revived talk in Congress of debt forgiveness make such deceptions easier to believe.

“Debt relief scams proliferate when there is a large amount of financial suffering or a lot of confusion, and we have both going on right now,” says Persis Yu, a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center and director of its Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project.

To be clear, there is no new broad-based loan forgiveness program available beyond the existing, often difficult-to-get options, such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness or Borrower Defense to Repayment. There’s also no application or fee neces-

sary to receive the federal student loan payment pause that’s been in effect since March 13, 2020, and will continue through Sept. 30, 2021.

About That ‘Stimulus Forgiveness’

It’s safe to dismiss any out-of-the-blue offer to discharge debt, consolidate loans or alter your repayment plan as a scam.

“There isn’t a person or entity on the planet who can get you a better deal on your student loan or access a program that you can’t get yourself by working directly with your servicer,” says Betsy Mayotte, president and founder of the Institute of Student Loan Advisors.

Mayotte says she’s seen an uptick in complaints from borrowers about “Biden relief” and COVID-19 relief student loan scams.

In one instance, a borrower sent Mayotte the transcript of a fraudulent voicemail making an enticing offer: “It looks like your student loan has been flagged eligible for the recent stimulus forgiveness and relief legislation, however, your application needs to be completed.”

The caller sounded legit (she

provided a name and an agent ID number) and expressed urgency to call back on a “dedicated eligibility line.” Then the caller further emphasized time sensitivity, saying the discharge would be first come, first served.

“What’s interesting is that this number came in as a D.C. number, which I’m sure just adds credibility to their scam,” Mayotte says.

Borrowers should continue to be on guard as student loan scams proliferate, largely due to the “whack-a-mole” effect: As soon as one company is shut down, another pops up in its place, says Michelle Grajales, staff attorney with the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Red Flags To Watch For

The maxim “If it sounds too good to be true, it is” goes hand in hand with spotting scams.

But the most effective ones often mix fact and fiction, Grajales says. Tactics like using of-the-moment phrases or claiming to work for the federal government make false promises more appealing to financially vulnerable people.

“They’ve heard something

about loan forgiveness,” Grajales says. “They’ve heard something about the CARES Act. Scammers try to sound legitimate by throwing in words that are very much in the public ear.”

The basic structure of student loan scams has remained the same for years, Yu says: Companies promise some kind of forgiveness in a short period of time, charge and pocket a large upfront fee, then get access to a borrower’s account to consolidate their debt and enroll them in an income-driven repayment plan.

“If they even do something (with the debt), that’s what they tend to do, or they just take the borrower’s money,” Yu says.

Experts say it’s critical to avoid handing over cash upfront or your Federal Student Aid identification information, or FSA ID, which allows fraudsters to act on your behalf.

“What they’re doing is inserting themselves between you and your servicer,” says Scott Buchanan, executive director of the Student Loan Servicing Alliance. “Oftentimes they’ll change your mailing address, email address so all the servicer communica-

tion will go to these scam artists. Then when they don’t do what they’re supposed to do, you won’t know until it’s too late.”

Use caution if a company expresses urgency to “apply now” or offers to provide a service you could do yourself, such as enrolling in income-driven repayment or applying for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

When in doubt, contact your servicer directly using a phone number on its website – not a number given to you by a third party.

What To Do If You’ve Been Scammed

If you were conned, remember that you’re not the first student loan borrower who’s been victim to predatory tactics.

“It has nothing to do with how smart you are; it has more to do with how good they are at their swindle and how vulnerable you are at the time that they reach you,” Mayotte says.

Regaining control of your account is the most important first step to take if it happens, experts say. Here’s how:

- Sever all ties with the scammer.
- Contact your servicer to re-

port the account breach. You may need to request a new FSA ID.

- Check the contact information on your account and make sure all ongoing correspondence goes to you.
- Contact your bank to stop any automatic payments to the scammer.
- Freeze your credit.
- Seek legal assistance for help recovering any money.
- Report the scam to enforcement agencies.

How To Complain About A Scam




You can, and should, report any scam correspondence to multiple sources. The more complaints these agencies receive, the more ammunition they’ll have to pursue legal action against fraudsters. Scams can be reported to and are tracked by:

- Your federal student loan servicer.
- The Federal Trade Commission.
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Your state attorney general’s office.
- The U.S. Department of Education’s FSA Feedback Center.

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

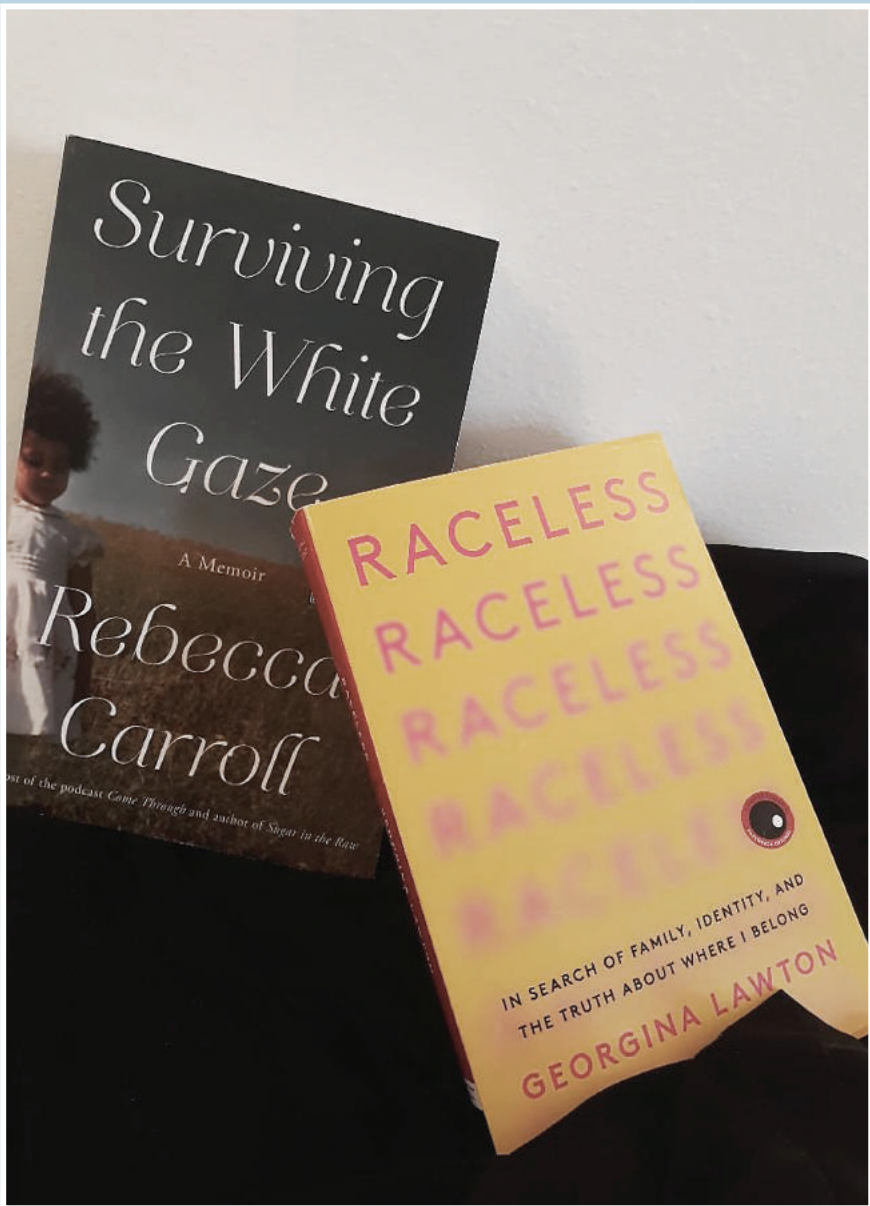
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BOOK REVIEW:
RACELESS:
IN SEARCH OF FAMILY, IDENTITY,
AND THE TRUTH ABOUT WHERE I BELONG
BY GEORGINA LAWTON,
C.2021, HARPER PERENNIAL,
\$17.99 / \$21.99 CANADA • 304 PAGES

**SURVIVING THE
WHITE GAZE:**
A MEMOIR
BY GEORGINA LAWTON,
C.2021, HARPER PERENNIAL,
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By Terri Schlichenmeyer
Columnist

Who are you?

That’s a question some people never ask themselves: seemingly intuitively, they know the answer at birth and they don’t think about it again. Then there are those who struggle with knowing until their last breath. Still others have stories to tell about their search to learn who they are. Read on...

One big secret-not-secret lies at the heart of “Raceless” by Georgina Lawton.

Born after a long labor in a

London hospital in 1989, Lawton was the child of a (white) British father and a (white) Irish mother, and with her black hair and deep brown eyes, she “was not the baby they had been expecting.” To save face, her conception, the result of a one-night stand, wasn’t talked about, and her curly hair and brown skin was blamed on a genetic quirk on her mother’s side, end of story. Lawton was raised with love, never questioning anything until four years ago, when she took a DNA test that indicated Nicaraguan ancestry.

Her father had died by then, and her mother refused to discuss it.

The frustration and the not-knowing sent Lawton on a round-the-world excursion, from Great Britain to Nicaragua to the U.S., South Africa, and elsewhere, in a search for racial identity. This book is the result: a thoughtfully-written, beautifully-told look at Blackness, culture, and love. It’s a story that sometimes reads faintly like a travelogue, but one in which the search is not for interesting sites, so much as it is for insight, making this a quietly

persistent, personal, and wonderful story to enjoy.

Like Lawton, Rebecca Carroll grew up in circumstances that were unique: as a little girl, she was literally the only Black person living in her small New England town. In “Surviving the White Gaze,” she writes about a picture-perfect childhood, the beliefs she was raised with, a feeling that there was something amiss, and her ultimate reckoning.

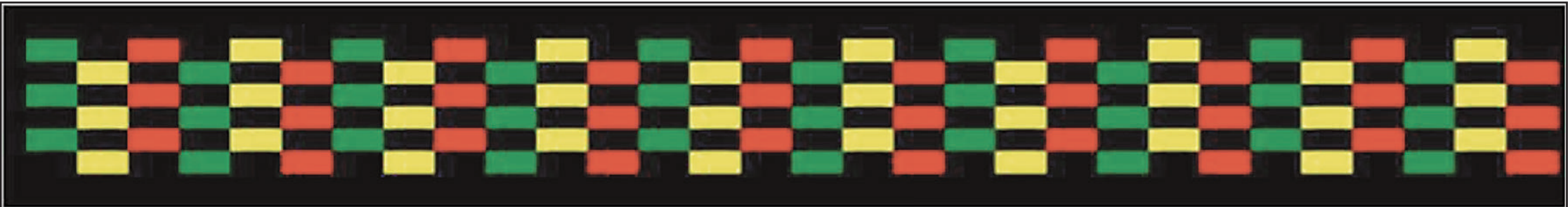
The story of how she was born and entered her family’s lives was something Carroll knew

from a very early age. Unlike Lawton’s family, Carroll’s parents never hid anything from her; she was told the names of her birth parents and she knew some of the woman’s close relatives so it’s a bit of a surprise that meeting her (white) birth mother was rather anticlimactic. Still, that meeting and the subsequent relationship they forged left Carroll walking a long, fine line between two mothers, and looking for the identity she craved all along.

“Surviving the White Gaze” is good: it’s full of nostalgia for anyone over 50 and it perfectly

explains the inner turmoil and delicate balance of straddling two worlds while searching for place. Also, though, it’s heavily peopled and the number of names you’ll need to keep track of can be a challenge. Just beware, and take this thoughtful, thought-provoking memoir as it comes.

Then, once you’ve devoured these two books, there’s good news: in the last few months, many authors have taken this journey of identity and are willing to share, no matter who you are.



SALUTING OUR AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MAKERS & OUTSTANDING ACHIEVERS: *Past and Present*

HOPE

(Health Optimization & Prevention Education)

CSLC HOPE, Holmes County Consolidated School District, and other vital partners provide adolescents in grades 6-12 with education in relationship skills for love, life, and work. HOPE uses the evidence-based *Love Notes* curriculum. HOPE also offers a weekly adult/parent component called "Let's Talk Relationships." HOPE is a community-based / in-school / virtual setting program supported by Grant No. 5 TP1AH000205-02-00 from the HHS Office of Population Affairs. Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or the Office of Population Affairs (OPA).



OUR MISSION:

To promote community and educational change by providing state-of-the-art leadership development and personal improvement opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors.

SEEDS

(Strategies for Emergency Empowerment for Delta Students)

SEEDS a trauma-informed behavioral health intervention for Holmes County, Mississippi youth. We seek to empower youth to be resilient, grow and bloom. Our goal is to decrease risk factors for developing trauma-related mental health issues or substance misuse and strengthen protective factors among students who experience trauma and disaster (natural or man-made). It is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

HIPPY

(Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters)

CSLC MS PIRC HIPPY equips parents with skills, tools, and the confidence to help prepare their 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children for success in school by serving as their child's first teacher. *HIPPY is an international evidenced-base early learning program model.*

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