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'We Took the Capitol': Trump supporters storm the chambers of Congress

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Thousands of President Donald Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday as Vice President Mike Pence presided over the Electoral College vote.

Carrying Trump banners and American flags and chanting "Stop the Steal," the protestors blasted their way into the hallowed halls, shoving Capitol police who attempted to beat back the mob by unleashing pepper spray.

The protestors pushed back and successfully breached the building at several locations.

Once the protestors were inside, security hustled Pence away, and members barricaded themselves in various offices.

Gunshots also rang out in the hallway near the chambers, and windows were shattered throughout the building. An unidentified woman inside reportedly was shot in the neck. Her condition is currently unclear.

The National Guard joined the Secret Service, FBI, Capitol Police, and D.C.'s Metropolitan Police at the scene.



Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.) called on officials to bring in the National Guard to secure the Capitol. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi eventually did just that. "I've never seen anyone be able to breach the Capitol like this," Bass stated. "The President of the United States incited this riot, and someone needs to go over to Pennsylvania Avenue and arrest him." (Photo via NNPA)

Nearby agencies from Virginia and Maryland also were called to assist.

The protestors then chanted, "We Took the Capitol."

The situation unfolded during what historically had been a peaceful transfer of power in which the Electoral College votes are certified in a joint session of Congress.

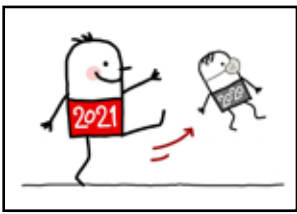
However, just before the joint-session, Trump led a nearby rally and urged his supporters to show

their anger at the Capitol.

The President's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani called for "a trial by combat" against lawmakers who were certifying the Electoral College votes.

"I could never have imagined a day like this," Rahm Emanuel, the former chief of staff for President Barack Obama and one-time mayor of Chicago.

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Trump finally signs COVID relief bill

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Police officers fired over Taylor killing

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Educators seek to mitigate COVID impact

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People In The News ...

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Miguel Cardona

Junior Bridgeman

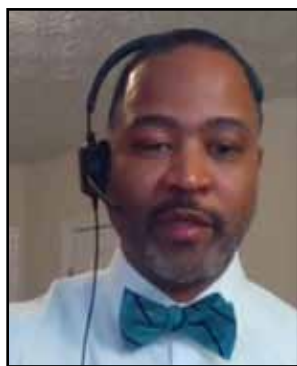
NDG Quote of the Week: "I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood." – Audre Lorde

Dr. Jeffrey E. Hall

(NNPA) The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring a new strain of the coronavirus in the United Kingdom.

The agency is in constant communication with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Dr. Jeffrey E. Hall, the CDC's COVID-19 Chief Health Equity Officer, said during a live interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Dr. Hall noted that the CDC and state and local health departments are continually monitoring and



studying the virus spreading in the United States to detect any changes quickly.

"We just put up a website about the new variant, and it lays out the full story," Dr. Hall remarked.

"One thing to note about

the conversation about mutation, everyone tends to be frightened by that ... those things tend to plant these concepts of what happens in nature that could lead to negative outcomes, but this is a situation when it comes to virality, that science, mutation is part of what is expected where that process is concerned. Because of the profile of COVID-19, people are understandably concerned. But our agency is watching this intently."

The interview with Dr. Hall primarily centered on the CDC's tips for celebrating virtually with loved ones and offering guidance to those who choose

to enjoy the holidays with friends and family outside of their homes.

After many ignored warnings and skirted guidelines for holiday travel and gathering during the Thanksgiving holiday, the coronavirus cases rose dramatically across the country. The CDC is hoping to avoid the same occurrence during Christmas and New Year's.

"We understand that, naturally and socially, everyone wants to be around their loved ones," Dr. Hall said. "But the one thing we do advise if at all possible, to celebrate the holidays at home with people that you

live with. "We are still in a very critical stage, and staying home is the best way to protect yourself and the ones you love."

The CDC also implores everyone to wear masks and be socially distant to help create the safest conditions.

"If travel does happen, do so in a way that's safe," Dr. Hall maintained.

"Use mitigation strategies at your destination, including the consistent use of masks, the consistent use of hygienic approaches like regularly washing your hands, and social distancing. Get testing if possible. We know that people will

make their own choices, but we hope they will make choices to keep others safe."

Dr. Hall, who holds degrees in epidemiology, general sociology, and psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, previously served as a Lead Behavioral Scientist in the Surveillance Branch of the Division of Violence Prevention of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

His professional interests include developmental epidemiology and social psychology applications

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Miguel Cardona

(NNPA) On Wednesday, December 23, President-elect Joe Biden selected Connecticut Education Commissioner Miguel Cardona as his nominee for education secretary.

Cardona's nomination delivers on Biden's campaign pledge to appoint an individual with public school experience, following President Donald Trump's education secretary, Betsy DeVos, who championed private schools and mostly turned a blind-eye to the plight of underserved students.

The nomination also



demonstrates Biden's intentions on having what he's called the most diverse administration in U.S. history. Cardona would be just the nation's second Puerto Rican education secretary.

"In Miguel Cardona,

America will have an experienced and dedicated public school teacher leading the way at the Department of Education – ensuring that every student is equipped to thrive in the economy of the future, that every educator has the resources they need to do their jobs with dignity and success, and that every school is on track to reopen safely," Biden said in a statement.

"He will help us address systemic inequities, tackle the mental health crisis in our education system, give educators a well-deserved raise, ease the burden of education debt, and secure

high-quality, universal pre-K for every three- and four-year-old in the country."

Biden called Cardona a "lifelong champion of public education."

Cardona was appointed Connecticut's commissioner of education in 2019 after more than two decades as a public school educator.

He began his career as an elementary school teacher and later served ten years as a school principal.

In 2013, Cardona became the assistant superintendent for teaching and learning.

"Given the significant educational and economic declines impacting the nation this year, the new

secretary of education, is a pivotal component of the overall success of the Biden administration, and for African Americans progress in particular," Nicole L. McDonald, the assistant vice provost for Student Success Strategies at the University of Houston, wrote in an email to the Black Press.

"Moving forward, African Americans should expect President-elect Biden to position education and educational attainment as part of the front-line defense in the nation's economic recovery and workforce development, commitment to social jus-

tice and criminal justice reform, and in improving the accessibility of health and human services," McDonald wrote.

She continued:

"Moving past what minorities have endured under Secretary Betsy DeVos, requires a secretary of education with the experience, commitments, and especially the innovation to be a secretary of education for African Americans, and other minoritized and poor people. The way to move the needle for the United States educationally and economically, the way to lift all boats – is to lift from the bottom."

Junior Bridgeman

(NNPA) The legendary EBONY magazine is being revived.

Former NBA star Junior Bridgeman reportedly has anted-up \$14 million for the famed Black media publication.

The magazine, which was founded by John H. Johnson in 1945, was forced into bankruptcy earlier this year after an attempt to revive EBONY failed. EBONY sold its



photo archive for \$30 million last year, and Willard Jackson briefly took over as

CEO but left the company soon after.

"EBONY kind of stood for Black excellence, showing people doing positive things that could benefit everyone," Bridgeman said, according to Black Enterprise. "It just made you feel good."

Bridgeman has a history of business success, Black Enterprise reported.

As the CEO of Manna Inc., the holding company for his franchise empire of quick-service restaurants,

he is a longtime member of the [Black Enterprise] 100s.

According to the Michigan Chronicle, Bridgeman, who played for the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Clippers, was once featured on a 2016 Forbes top-paid athletes list.

He is the CEO of a Coca-Cola bottling company and part-owner of Coca-Cola Canada Bottling Limited.

The former athlete attempted to purchase Sports Illustrated in 2018 but

eventually withdrew his bid a year later.

According to BlackPast.org, EBONY earned fame by honoring Black identity – portraying Black life, refuting stereotypes, and inspiring readers to overcome racial and other barriers to success.

John H. Johnson began his career with Negro Digest in 1942 and started Ebony three years later.

Both magazines were so successful that in 1972 the Magazine Publishers As-

sociation selected Johnson "Magazine Publisher of the Year."

EBONY occasionally presented works by well-established literary figures such as Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks.

It also frequently published special issues, such as the 1963 one hundredth year commemoration of the Emancipation Proclamation, that highlighted issues deemed particularly rele-

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Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:marketing@northdallasgazette.com
972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

editor@northdallasgazette.com

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Allen R. Gray

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Interim Editor

David Wilfong

Community Marketing

Nadina Davis

Contributing Writers

Fatema Biviji

Jackie Hardy

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

David Wilfong

Senior Account Executive

Nina Garcia

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
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Remembering the Silver Linings of 2020

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The year began with devastating news as the world learned that a helicopter carrying NBA legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gigi, had crashed into a mountainside just outside of Los Angeles. Bryant, his young daughter, the pilot and six other passengers were all killed in the accident.

In unfortunate, but anticipated news, 2020 headlines continued to report on two areas of disproportionate death tolls for Blacks: Police killings of unarmed African Americans, and the novel coronavirus pandemic, or COVID-19, which disproportionately affected communities of color.

While some might argue that detecting a silver lining over the past 365 days is difficult, there was good news.

The outgoing year saw many firsts and accomplishments for African Americans, including many from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), representing the Black Press of America.

Presidential candidates Joe Biden, Tom Steyer, and Michael Bloomberg all sat for interviews with NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Chavis, a civil rights icon, also helped raise the profile of the Black Press when he launched The Chavis Chronicles, a national television show with American Public Television.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation continued a campaign with the NNPA to raise awareness about education barriers for students of color and bridging the learning gap for minorities. That partnership has proven even more vital during the pandemic.

Following the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and others, major sports leagues, corporations, and others began acknowledging their responsibility in the fight for social

justice and civil rights.

Led by LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers, NBA players exerted their popularity and authority by successfully demanding that the league honor the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Because of the players' actions, the NBA opened its arenas to use as polling places, and the league agreed to promote social justice and civic engagement.

Major League Baseball and the National Football League also instituted initiatives with promises to do more for minorities at all levels.

The Google News Initiative (GNI) Innovation Challenge awarded Black Voice News (BVN) \$300,000 in support of "Save the Black Press," a bold call to action to innovate revenue and sustainability solutions at Black news organizations through the creation of the Data Access and Content Discovery Hub (DACDH).

Comcast Chairman and CEO Brian Roberts announced that Comcast would fight injustice and inequality against race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability. With that, Roberts committed \$100 million to a three-year plan to advance social justice and equality. The initiative includes a \$75 million cash commitment and \$25 million in media.

Facebook announced that 15 member publishers of the NNPA would receive \$1.288 million in grants through the Facebook Journalism Project's relief fund for local news.

MSNBC named Rashida Jones the first Black person and Black woman president of the network. Jones, who quickly becomes the most prominent woman in cable news, is scheduled to step into the top role on Feb. 1, Black History Month, replacing Phil Griffin, who had been at the cable news channel for more than 25 years.

Melody Hobson, a Princeton graduate who, in 2019, earned the Woodrow Wil-

son Award, the university's highest honor, was named Chairwoman of the Board of Starbucks.

With the promotion, Hobson became the only African American woman to chair a Fortune 500 company.

Midshipman First Class Sydney Barber, a mechanical engineering major from Illinois, was named Brigade Commander for the spring semester at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Barber, a track star with a stated desire to work as a Marine Corps ground officer, becomes the first Black woman to lead the Naval Academy's student body.

The Brigade Commander heads the Academy's day-to-day activities and trains the class of approximately 4,500 midshipmen. Barber becomes the 16th woman to serve in that role.

There were significant changes in the world of entertainment as Valeisha Butterfield Jones, a leader, global influencer, and culture shifter, who co-founded the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WENN) and served as the National Youth Vote Director for President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, was named the Recording Academy's first Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer.

While the traditional annual festival which hosts more than 350,000 people on Los Angeles' Crenshaw Boulevard wasn't in the cards because of the pandemic, Bakewell Media and the Los Angeles Sentinel found a new way to bring even more people together. The 15th annual Taste of Soul, the largest one-day street festival in Southern California, took place virtually in October.

Carol H. Williams received Ad Age's Vanguard Award during this year's Women to Watch Awards event. Williams, the CEO of Carol H. Williams Advertising, was honored for a lifetime of significant achievements, including be-

ing named to the AAF Advertising Hall of Fame.

2020 also answered the question, "What do Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Dolores Tucker, Roland Martin, Gayle King, and Brent Staples have in common?" Each has made the Ebony Power 100 List, which annually recognizes leaders in their respective fields whom the iconic publication's editors say have, "positively impacted the African American community."

Retired NBA Star Junior Bridgeman announced the purchase of Ebony for \$14 million. Ebony's archives were previously sold for more than \$30 million.

With death and hospitalizations piling up from the pandemic, a Black woman, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, was at the forefront of a National Institutes of Health's team that worked with Moderna on its coronavirus vaccine.

Many others on the front lines of the fight to educate and advocate for African Americans are also celebrated. African American physicians at the University of Virginia, including Drs. Ebony Hilton, Leigh-Ann Webb, Taison Bell, Rochanda Mitchell and Cameron Webb all proved to be trusted and vital sources of objective information throughout the pandemic.

Critical care nurse Sandra Lindsay, an African American in New York, became the first person in the country to receive Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.

In November, the ticket of Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris defeated President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. Harris will become the nation's first African American and first woman vice president.

In December, L+M Development Partners formally announced financing for a \$349 million development project on the Bronx Harlem River waterfront in New York, including the Universal Hip Hop Museum. Construction is scheduled to commence in January.

"A Fitting Memorial"
NDG Obituaries

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Trump finally signs COVID relief bill providing \$600 direct payments

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

More than a week after Congress reached a stimulus deal, President Donald Trump has signed the \$900 billion COVID-relief bill.

The President, who has spent most of his time since losing the November 3 election pushing false conspiracy theories about his loss to President-Elect Joe Biden and golfing, delayed signing the bill complaining that the \$600 in direct payments in the legislation was too small.

He also chaffed at portions of the bill that called for ridding any military base of a names of Confederate generals and other figures who fought against equality.

While Trump's delay came close to forcing a government shutdown, it did get in the way of the Internal Revenue Service sending out much needed relief payments to struggling families.

With two vital Senate runoff elections upcoming in Georgia, Trump's sudden interest in boosting direct payments to \$2,000 likely was a political play to assist the GOP in those races.

Republicans need to win just one of the two seats to retain control of the Senate,



Reportedly, some of the funding will be set aside for small businesses through lenders such as Minority Depository Institutions, following criticisms that the first round of PPP loans overlooked many minority – and women-owned businesses. (Photo: The White House from Washington, DC, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

while Democrats need to claim victories in both races to end Kentucky's Mitch McConnell's divisive reign as Majority Leader.

Trump realized that many have called the \$600 direct payment negotiated in the legislation and agreed to by the White House a slap in the face to struggling American families who are increasingly finding it difficult to pay their bills and avoid eviction.

"A \$600 stimulus check is like receiving a \$10 gift card for a store where the cheapest item found is \$1,000," stated George McClendon, a member of the American Mathematical Society.

"The stimulus is politicians destroying the economy with garbage policies while they flout the rules

and party then offering to extract nearly 1 trillion dollars from working-class people, give them back \$600 each and give the overwhelming majority to big businesses," Tim Pool, a filmmaker, musician, and journalist, wrote on Twitter.

Republican and Democratic negotiators reached a new \$900 billion stimulus deal on Sunday, December 20.

The \$900 billion package is far lighter than the more than \$2 trillion CARES Act, which was signed into law earlier this year and provided direct payments of \$1,200 for individuals who made \$75,000 or less and \$2,400 for couples who earned \$150,000 or less.

The CARES Act also provides an additional \$600 per dependent child.

The latest bill contains direct payments of \$600 per adult and \$600 per dependent child. Though lawmakers still have not finalized the language, it's believed those payments would be based on the same provisions of the CARES Act.

The bill also provides \$300 of weekly enhancement in unemployment benefits – down from \$600 in the CARES Act.

It reopens the small business loan program, provides aid for schools and childcare, extends eviction protection, and offers nutrition assistance aid.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will be extended with another \$284 billion of forgivable loans.

Reportedly, some of the funding will be set aside for small businesses through lenders such as Minority Depository Institutions, following criticisms that the first round of PPP loans overlooked many minority – and women-owned businesses.

According to a bill summary, the PPP program will also expand eligibility for nonprofits and local newspapers, TV, and radio broadcasters.

Another \$20 billion in Economic Injury Disaster Loans will be set aside for businesses in low-income

communities.

In comparison, \$15 billion will be directed toward live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions.

"The stimulus package is inadequate, but a necessary compromise. It just underscores the importance of [the Georgia Senate race] to get another package in early 2021," former Democratic Minnesota Sen. Al Franken noted on his podcast.

Following the stimulus agreement's announcement, many on social media were quick to point out what other countries have done for struggling citizens.

France agreed to provide \$7,575 per month in direct payments to its citizens,

while German residents receive \$7,326 monthly during the pandemic.

Demark (\$3,288 per month), the United Kingdom (\$3,084), Australia (\$1,993), Ireland (\$1,793), and Canada (\$1,433) each provide its citizens with monthly stimulus payouts.

The \$600 stimulus check the new bill provides for U.S. residents is a one-time payout.

The \$600 stimulus," Opinion writer Ed Neller tweeted. "Did you know that a first-term congressman earns \$174,000? That means they earn over \$3,000 per week. And they decided \$600 is sufficient to live on for months. See the problem here? Anyone? Anyone?"

HALL, from Page 2

within violence prevention, structural and environmental methods for reducing violence-related health disparities, and community-based models for violence surveillance, research, and prevention.

A medical sociologist by training, Dr. Hall's work has focused on topics across the life span, including infant homicide, youth, young adult violence, and elder abuse.

As an African American, Dr. Hall said he understands the Black community's hesitation about the

new vaccines approved to fight the virus.

"To be able to heal and progress and really approach this opportunity from an informed position, we have to take into account all the things that might influence people," Dr. Hall surmised.

"We can't dismiss the importance of the Tuskegee Experiment, the Cincinnati Radiation Experiment, and we know the Henrietta Lacks story."

Each of those medical experiments went awry.

In Lacks' case, doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore gave Lacks' cancerous cell samples to a researcher without her knowledge or consent.

Lacks' cells turned out to have an extraordinary capacity to survive and reproduce.

Today, work done with what is now referred to as HeLa cells have been involved in critical discoveries in many fields, including cancer and infectious disease. One of their most recent applications has been in research for CO-

VID-19 vaccines.

Lacks' family has never been compensated and are barely recognized for her immense contribution.

"These stories often pop up as African Americans," Dr. Hall said. "When new social injustices arrive, it can call our faith into question. But, for us to potentially benefit from opportunities for health, we have to lay it all out on the table and talk it through and look at what's represented in opportunities like flu vaccination, COVID opportunities, and preventive services."

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Louisville terminates cops involved in the death of Breonna Taylor

(NNPA) The City of Louisville, Kentucky, on Wednesday, fired Det. Myles Cosgrove, the police officer who shot and killed Breonna Taylor, and Det. Joshua Jaynes, the cop who sought the warrant that led to the fatal and flawed March 13, 2020 raid of Taylor's home.

Officer Brett Hankison was fired in September after a grand jury indicted him on charges of endangering Taylor's neighbors by shooting through a nearby apartment's windows.

The terminations were announced as the city named former Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields to



Taylor, a 26-year-old former EMT worker, was shot at least a half-dozen times when officers breached her apartment to serve the erroneous warrant. (Photo via NNPA)

head Louisville's department.

Each of the officers is white.

Taylor, a Black woman, was in bed sleeping next to

her boyfriend when the officers attempted to serve a no-knock search warrant.

Officers falsely associated Taylor with a former boyfriend's alleged drug

activities because they claimed that the man used Taylor's address, making the house fair game for a police raid.

After a grand jury failed to indict the officers, a defiant Kentucky Attorney General, Daniel Cameron, maintained his desire to keep secret the recording of the grand jury proceedings in Taylor's case despite a judge's order to release them.

Judge Ann Bailey ruled that the recording and all discovery documents cannot be shared merely between the parties.

Smith set Wednesday, September 30, as the day

she will release the recordings.

Taylor, a 26-year-old former EMT worker, was shot at least a half-dozen times when officers breached her apartment to serve the erroneous warrant.

One member of the grand jury argued that Cameron "attempted to make very clear that the grand jury alone made the decision on who and what to charge."

The anonymous juror added that "the only exception to the responsibility he foisted upon the grand jurors was in his statement that they 'agreed' with his team's investigation that Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly

and officer Myles Cosgrove were justified in their actions."

"It's a compelling public interest for these proceedings to be released," the juror continued in court filings.

"The citizens of this Commonwealth have demonstrated their lack of faith in the process and proceedings in this matter and the justice system itself. Using the grand jurors as a shield to deflect accountability and responsibility for these decisions only sow more seeds of doubt in the process while leaving a cold chill down the spines of future grand jurors."

African American physician chronicles racist medical care that led to her death

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

(EDITOR'S NOTE: You can make a donation to the GoFundMe campaign set up for Dr. Moore's funeral costs and expenses for her 19-year-old son and elderly parents. As of this writing, the campaign has raised more than \$162,000.)

The disparities in health care treatment for African Americans extend not only to the millions of underserved patients in U.S. hospitals and medical facilities but also, sadly, to frontline healthcare professionals.



Dr. Susan Moore said that despite telling her doctor that she was in pain she received medication after tests proved what she had been saying since she arrived at the hospital. (Photo: Chicago Crusader)

Just weeks after Dr. Susan Moore, an African American physician, posted a video that showed the

world how her doctor, who is White, downplayed her complaints of pain and discomfort, she died of com-

plications from COVID-19.

Many say that Moore's plight illustrates the healthcare industry's institutional biases and inherent systemic racism. A pattern of operation, care and treatment that has only exacerbated the disproportionate susceptibility to the virus faced by African Americans.

Others are skeptical of both of the newly approved vaccines.

"Dr. Susan Moore knew all the fancy terms and treatment nuances when she was struggling with COVID-19 in the hospital. Yet, the doctor treating her was dismissive, and it felt

to her like only one thing mattered to him: That she was Black. Dr. Moore died Sunday [December 20]," New York Times Journalist John Eligon wrote on Twitter.

Eligon wasn't the only person to express outrage.

"Today, I want to speak out on behalf of a fellow Black woman physician, Dr. Susan Moore, not to let our stories go unheard," Dr. Omolara Uwemedimo of Long Island Jewish Hospital in New York stated.

"Sadly, while so many have fallen victim, her story is marred by systemic racism, even as a doctor."

Indeed, in her last moments, Dr. Moore had complained about her treatment.

"He made me feel like a drug addict," she said of the physician who downplayed her complaints of pain and suggested she be discharged from the hospital.

Dr. Moore was admitted to the Indiana University North Hospital in Carmel, Indiana.

In a December 4 Facebook video, Dr. Moore offered her complaints to the public.

She said that she only received medication after

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Keeping watch...



U.S. Navy Information Systems Technician 1st Class Annesia Willis, from Dallas, left, serves a holiday meal aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) Dec. 25, 2020. Bunker Hill is on a scheduled deployment with the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group conducting routine operations in the U.S. Third Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brandie Nuzzi)

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2229	Double Diamond™ Overall Odds are 1 in 3.56	\$5	2/17/21	8/16/21

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Educators say they must act during the pandemic to close widening learning gap

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The lack of a quiet place to work and resources like internet service often hampers students of color's ability to adequately learn during the pandemic, according to education experts who share their frustration about the inequities in education faced by minorities and those in underserved communities.

"There also may be familial responsibilities like caring for a younger sibling or parent," said Adrienne Oddi, the dean of admissions and financial aid at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

"Homes and residential dwellings are often more congested with family, making it difficult to focus. We see these demands in our own students at Trinity, too," Oddi further asserted.

"It is a problem that isn't simply at the K-12 levels but also in higher education. One of the main reasons we welcomed our students back to campus in the fall was to help combat inequity issues that may exist in a student's home. We were able to help provide our students with the resources and space they needed to focus on their education."

Oddi acknowledged that the task is not easy for every student who wants an education.

"Assuming students can



"We need to be able to work toward equitable education for all, leveling the playing field for those most at risk of being left behind, and close the gap that data shows are widening during the pandemic. We need to work toward helping now, and helping always," said Adrienne Oddi, the dean of admissions and financial aid at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. (Photo via NNPA)

prioritize themselves and their education is the admissions officer's equivalent of 'Put your mask on first before assisting others,'" he illustrated.

"It's a luxury that not every student and family can afford. 'But the onus is not on the student. It is on everyone. As the dean of admissions and financial aid, the onus is on me, too.'"

Oddi demanded that those in higher education need to examine their practices and ask themselves – "Who is here? Who is missing?"

"We need to be able to work toward equitable education for all, leveling the playing field for those most at risk of being left behind, and close the gap that data shows are widening during the pandemic. We need to work toward helping now, and helping always," he said.

José Viana, former director of the U.S. Department

of Education's office of English-language acquisition and Senior Education Advisor at Lexia Learning, told NNPA Newswire that current circumstances caused by the pandemic have resulted in English language learners – many of whom are students of color – being at a significant disadvantage.

"For example, opportunities for oral language typically developed through speaking are infrequent due to the lack of in-person instruction," Viana remarked.

"In addition, many school districts continue to modify educational plans due to ever-changing state mandates, causing emergent bilingual students to be left out – either due to missing essential discourse opportunities with peers and teachers in the classroom or lacking the assistance and technology needed to learn effectively through remote instruction."

obstacles, and encouraged the Black community to exhibit racial pride.

"When you look at EBO-NY, you look at the history not just for Black people, but of the United States," Bridgeman said. "I think it's something that a generation is missing, and we want to bring that back as much as we can."

He continued:

"It is also important to consider that home and school relationships are a cornerstone of working with emergent bilingual students, and that school districts across the nation often lack interpreters that reach the family members of students while distance learning."

Thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's continued partnership, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) has carried on a public awareness program to close the public school and the higher education achievement gap.

NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., has conducted videotaped interviews with education experts, community activists, and college students to help determine whether students in underserved communities have their needs met during the pandemic.

During the interviews, Dr. Chavis discussed the various challenges students of color and the working-class face as the pandemic continues to grip America and place a stranglehold on education.

The NNPA also continued publishing a series of articles to draw attention to America's education gap.

"I'm a tutor, and elementary school speech-language pathologist, and I work with students of color where I see various challenges for some of my students," offered Jessica Bonner-Gomez, founder, owner, and tutor with For Other Prizes Consulting.

"The biggest challenge is the inability to get online at a set meeting time during the week," Bonner-Gomez stated.

"For the children who

attend their online speech therapy sessions inconsistently, the barrier is that the parent is a night-shift worker and sleeps during the day, has to rely on daycare staff to get the child online if the parent works throughout the day, or cannot remember to get the child online due to already tending to other children and responsibilities."

Bonner-Gomez said children who perform noticeably better at school and around their peers are more likely to turn off when they are only learning virtually.

"As some of these children are already behind and may be aware of it, they tend to be the least attentive," Bonner-Gomez noted.

"Consequently, this lack of attention puts them ever further behind their peers. This reality is exacerbated when some parents are too exhausted to provide one-to-one assistance to their child or find they cannot grasp the school content to be of help. Further, parents may not have the funds to hire a tutor even if they know their child is noticeably behind."

BRIDGEMAN, from Page 2

vant to African Americans.

EBONY first featured articles about notable African Americans such as celebrities and sports figures, and during the late 1950s ran Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s column, "Advice for Living By."

By the 1960s, articles

supporting civil rights appeared as the magazine provided reliable coverage of the civil rights movement as it unfolded across the United States.

EBONY also discussed the increasing opportunities for African Americans, suggested ways to overcome

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Carrollton seeks nominations for community volunteer awards

(City of Carrollton) The City of Carrollton's Neighborhood Partnership Office is accepting nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award, Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, Neighborhood Leadership Award, and Outstanding Community Organization Award. The City's Parks & Recreation Department is also accepting nominations for the Jimmy Porter Award.

Nominations will be accepted through Friday, February 26 by 11:30 a.m. This year's activities are especially designed with safety in mind. All five awards will be presented virtually during a ceremony in the spring at a time to be announced.

The Carrollton Cares Volunteer Awards are designed to recognize individuals, organizations, and leaders who have gone above and beyond to deliver exceptional community service to the City of Carrollton and its residents in



Alex Meci/Unsplash

2020. The City is grateful for those who have contributed their time, ideas, and efforts in making the community a beautiful place and enhancing the lives of others, and utilizes these awards to display that appreciation.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is for distinguished service to a City of Carrollton department or program, such as a board or commission, Citizen Patrol, the Animal Services & Adoption Center, or the Carrollton

Public Library. Nominees must be at least 18 years old and have volunteered for at least one year in coordination with City staff.

The Youth Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes Carrollton youths who have volunteered for at least one year for a City department, program, school, or affiliate organization, and must be 10 to 17 years old.

The Outstanding Community Organization Award is designed to recognize active organizations giv-

ing back to the Carrollton community, such as neighborhood associations, nonprofits, PTAs, churches, and youth groups. Nominated organizations must be composed of three or more members, have pre-defined goals, and utilize strategy to achieve those goals. They also must have contributed outstanding service to the Carrollton community through projects such as neighborhood beautification efforts.

The Neighborhood Leadership Award recognizes individuals in the Carrollton community who have taken a proactive role in addressing the needs of the City and its residents in 2020. Examples of volunteer efforts include beautification, youth, church community outreach, and intercultural projects, as well as outstanding board leadership, crime watch, and social causes. Nominees can serve neighborhood associations, churches, nonprofits, PTAs, or any other

self-organized group that serves the City. They must be at least 18 years old and have volunteered for at least one year.

Individuals nominated for the Jimmy Porter Award must be at least 18 years old and have volunteered in one of the recognized Carrollton youth sport leagues (Aqua Racers Swim Team, Carrollton-Farmers Branch Baseball Association, Carrollton-Farmers Branch Girls Softball League, Carrollton-Farmers Branch Soccer Association, Carrollton Youth Basketball, Carrollton Youth Football, Carrollton Youth Track & Field, Carrollton Youth Volleyball, and Special Olympics Texas – Local Chapter) within the past year with no compensation for time and activities for which they are being considered. Time volunteered on behalf of teams, leagues, or activities affiliated with a Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District school does not qualify for

the Jimmy Porter Award, but it does for other award options. Nominees and individuals making nominations are not required to be Carrollton residents; however, nominees must not be a current Parks & Recreation Board Member.

For the Volunteer of the Year, Neighborhood Leadership, and Outstanding Community Organization Awards, the Neighborhood Advisory Commission selects the recipients based on volunteer efforts, commitment of time, accomplishments, community impact, and enhancement of the lives of others. The Parks & Recreation Board selects the Jimmy Porter Award recipient.

For more information about Carrollton's Volunteer Awards or to make a nomination, visit cityofcarrollton.com/volunteer-awards. For more information about the City's volunteer opportunities, visit cityofcarrollton.com/volunteer.



Joshua Herrera/Unsplash

Irving offers eco-friendly option for discarding Christmas trees

After the flurry of gift giving, residents will have an opportunity to properly dispose of fresh-cut Christmas trees for recycling during Irving's annual Christmas Tree Roundup.

Fresh-cut Christmas trees will be collected as part of Irving's regular weekly brush/bulky waste pickup Dec. 28 to Jan. 15. Weekly brush/bulky waste collection is offered the same day as curbside recycling.

To learn more about curbside recycling and weekly brush/bulky waste collection, visit CityofIrving.org/Solid-Waste-Services or call (972) 721-8059.

Residents also can bring Christmas trees to any of the following drop-off locations at the designated area Dec. 28 to Jan. 15:

- Cottonwood Creek, 4051 N. Story Road
- Hunter Ferrell Landfill, 110 E. Hunter Ferrell Road

(hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1)

- Las Colinas Service Center, 5964 Riverside Drive (southern section of the parking lot)

- Southwest Park, 2800 W. Shady Grove Road

Whether placing trees at the curb or dropping off, residents must remove all decorations, such as tree stands, lights, tinsel, nails and ornaments. Plastic bags

covering the tree also must be removed. All fresh-cut Christmas trees collected as part of this program will be mulched and made available for a nominal fee at the Hunter Ferrell Landfill.

For more information about the Christmas Tree Roundup or other city recycling programs, visit CityofIrving.org/Solid-Waste-Services or call (972) 721-8059.

CAPITOL, from Page 1

"Never could you have imagined seeing the security of the U.S. Congress not only being breached but threatened with their lives like this," Emanuel remarked during a live interview on ABC News.

After watching African American protests the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others, many Black com-

munities called law enforcement's response tepid at best.

"So imagine Black folk was in this mix," Public Enemy frontman Chuck D remarked. The "Don't Believe the Hype" superstar then posted a video of the Capitol's unrest.

He questioned: "Would they drop a bomb on 'em like Wilson Goode did."

"As a part of both Million Man Marches in D.C., we aired differences to the world knowing that we were watched," Chuck D continued.

"A brother didn't even take a piss on a tree. Yet, all the Nation of Islam and Minister Louis Farrakhan has gotten was grief and misinformation from many factions here in the U.S.A."

Tracy Fredericks, one of Chuck's followers, replied:

"We [Black people] would never have made it inside the Capitol Building."

Added Morgan Cherry, a District-based political activist: "These Trump supporters, who are about 99.9 percent white, have gone where no Black demonstrators could have gone. Ambush the Capitol Building."

Dr. Ebony Hilton, a prolific physician at the University of Virginia, asked

why there were no arrests.

"Where are the handcuffs? Where are the arrests? Where is the tear gas?" Dr. Hilton demanded.

"Did we use up all of the rubber bullets at the peaceful Black Lives Matter rallies because our Capitol Building is under siege? When are law and order going to show up?"

Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-Calif.) called on

officials to bring in the National Guard to secure the Capitol. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi eventually did just that.

"I've never seen anyone be able to breach the Capitol like this," Bass stated. "The President of the United States incited this riot, and someone needs to go over to Pennsylvania Avenue and arrest him."

Democrat wins in Georgia have Biden feeling 'peachy'

(NNPA) 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 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



Reverend Raphael Warnock, during his CNN interview on Wednesday morning, when asked about the improbability of his victory, ended his remarks with the following: "In America, anything is possible." (Photo via NNPA)

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 on 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 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 Elec-

tions 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 on 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.

Cowboys end the season on a disappointing loss to Giants

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

In a season filled with more twists than scenes from an Alfred Hitchcock movie, the Dallas Cowboys ended their season with Sunday's less-than-thrilling 23-19 loss to the New York Giants. But in typical Cowboy fashion, the premature end to the season left their fans wondering "what if?"

With approximately seven minutes remaining in the game and the Cowboys trailing, 20-19, Giants receiver Dante Pettis dove and apparently caught a 10-yard pass on third-and-16 that had kicker Graham Cano in position to kick a 50-yard field goal and put the Giants ahead 23-19.

But instant replays clearly showed that Pettis trapped the ball. And if Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy would have challenged the play, he would have won that challenge and the Giants would have



All Pro Reels / Flickr

been forced to punt with a one-point lead.

However, McCarthy didn't challenge the play and that left the Cowboys needing a touchdown – instead of a field goal -- to win this very important game. And that didn't happen, either, as Andy Dalton tossed an interception in the end zone on third down with 1:15 remaining and the Cowboys ended their season with a dismal 6-10 record.

"In hindsight I wish I wouldn't have done that," Dalton said of the interception. "I wish I would have just thrown it away."

"I tried to extend the play. I tried to just throw it up and give somebody a chance, and in hindsight I wish I wouldn't have done that."

In defending his decision not to challenge the pass play to Pettis that he would have won, McCarthy said: "We just felt it was too

close. We felt it was kind of a bang-bang type situation. The fact of the matter we were in a tight game and the three timeouts is obviously of high value there, so we just didn't think it was enough information to overturn it."

Had the Cowboys beaten the Giants, they would have advanced to the playoffs if the Philadelphia Eagles had beaten the Washington Football Team on Sunday night. But that didn't happen, either, as Washington captured the NFC East thanks to 20-14 victory over the Eagles.

"We would like to have had a different result (Sunday)," said Dalton, who was 29-of-47 for 243 yards. "We wish we would have played better."

"I wish I would have played better. It doesn't take away from this group of the fight that they have."

Throughout this season,

injuries to key players – especially to quarterback Dak Prescott – kept popping up week after week and crippling the Cowboys and served as the backdrop to them getting off to a disappointing 3-9 start. But the Cowboys caught fire in December, won three straight games and suddenly found themselves with an honest chance of qualifying for the playoffs.

However, the season ended with the Cowboys missing out on the prestigious playoff action for the eighth time in the past 11 seasons.

"It's heartbreaking, it's tough," linebacker Sean Lee said. "Kind of how hard we fought down the stretch. The guys worked the right way."

Unfortunately, that work wasn't good enough this season as the Cowboys repeatedly had difficulties putting one foot in front of

the other without there being some sort of misstep that would carry them off their intended path.

"We've got to find a way to persevere," linebacker Jaylon Smith said. "It's been a long season, and for us we didn't get the job done, so we're not satisfied at all."

That also goes for McCarthy, who is in his first season coaching the Cowboys. It's hard to describe this season as any type of success story.

"It's been obviously a year of a lot of ups and downs, trials and tribulations," McCarthy said. "Frankly, in some ways this game's a bit of a microcosm of our season."

"Obviously we have a lot of guys coming back from injury situations. So when we do have a chance to get together and formulate, I think we're all excited for the next opportunity."



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Red Sox hire first Black woman coach in MLB history

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

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 Myers, 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



Bianca Smith will work with the team's infielders at the Red Sox minor league facility in Fort Myers, Fla.

interesting experiences and has been passionate about growing her skillset and development herself."

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 Red Sox have 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," Crockett said of Smith's hire. "Meaningful thing for the organization."

Racial issues are at heart of new release by Filo Betto

(24-7PressRelease) Independent rock artist, Chris Lewis who releases music under the name Filo Betto, does not consider himself a crusader, but his recent release "Common Answers", now available on all music streaming platforms, may change that. The song was inspired by Chris' reaction to the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. "This is a song that wrote itself, which doesn't always happen," says Lewis. "I pay attention to the news and have always been a progressive thinker on social issues." Chris goes on to explain what happened



24-7PressRelease

while he watched the news coverage of George Floyd being slowly suffocated by former Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin. "When I watched those 9

minutes, it changed me in a fundamental way. I was screaming at the TV for Chauvin to let him [Floyd] stand up and when George Floyd died, I cried hard... then I got angry! How has our society come to this and how can we make things better."

Chris has something to say on the topic of race relations in our nation and is using his music as an outlet to express his views. "Being a Caucasian male in America, I have heard racial slurs all my life. I didn't understand the impact and destructive nature of hearing and using that type of

language as a young man", Chris reflects. "Some folks cannot even admit there is a problem. Acknowledging it would go a long way to changing the way people think about race and how we treat one another. Validation of another man's struggle is such a simple act, but many cannot even do that."

As the lyrics proclaim, "Common Answers" is a song about the transformation from a spectator watching human injustice to becoming a participant by helping to change the world around us:

I saw a man die today,

oh why. Driven by fear and hate and trust in nobody. It's easy to look away, doesn't concern my time.//

Now I'm telling you I'm changing my life It's the one thing I control and I can see it clearly now. I intend to find Common Answers to the way we live our lives.//

The song goes on to express the heartache Chris felt during the Floyd murder:

I never thought that one man kneeling could set the world on fire. When one man said, "I can't breath. I'm goin' out. Mama I'm coming home, home. All the world is watching me, I

can't breath. I can't.."

Chris hopes "Common Answers" will encourage listeners to pause for a few minutes and think about the state of society; "Now is the time to fix this and find a way to live together without killing one another. Pretty deep stuff for one little song but that is how I felt then and now!"

Chris Lewis is a guitarist and singer-songwriter for the band Filo Betto and has been recording music for over 25 years. He is an unsigned artist and plans to tour in Spring 2021 depending on the world's COVID 19 situation.

PHYSICIAN, from Page 5

tests proved her initial complaints upon arriving at the hospital.

"I put forth, and I maintain, if I was White, I wouldn't have to go through that," Moore said in her video after explaining that her doctor only agreed to give her pain medication after a CT scan revealed new pulmonary infiltrates.

"And that man never came back and apolo-

gized."

Dr. Moore continued:

"I don't trust this hospital, and I'm asking to be transferred. These people wanted to send me home with new pulmonary infiltrates and all kinds of lymphadenopathy in my neck.

"This is how Black people get killed. When you send them home, and they don't know how to fight for themselves. I have to talk to

somebody, maybe the media, somebody, to let people know how I'm being treated up in this place."

Dr. Moore updated her post later, noting that she had spoken to the hospital's healthcare system's chief medical officer, and her pain was finally being "properly managed."

She said that the CMO "stated that there will be some diversity training" and that they were "working on" getting an apology from her doctor.

After her discharge, Dr. Moore shared an update.

"I was home for less than 12 hours," Dr. Moore wrote.

"Spiked a temperature of 103, and my blood pressure plummeted to 80/60 with a heart rate of 132. I'm back in the hospital, a different hospital Saint Vincent Carmel."

She continued:

"Those people were trying to kill me. Clearly, everyone has to agree they discharged me way too

soon. They are now treating me for bacterial pneumonia as well as COVID pneumonia. I am getting very compassionate care. They are offering me pain medicine."

In her final update, Dr. Moore said she was being transferred to the ICU and was on a BiPAP machine to help her breathe.

"Dr. Susan Moore, a physician, residing in Indianapolis, experienced an untimely death," the GoFundMe campaign states.

"She had been fighting COVID for the past few weeks. She leaves a son who is 19 years old and her parents, both of which have dementia. The son is dealing with both situations at this time and is in good spirits."

"Susan was a phenomenal doctor," the campaign added. "She loved practicing medicine, she loved being a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she loved helping people, and she was unapologetic about it."

Desalination breakthrough could lead to cheaper water filtration

(UT - AUSTIN) — Producing clean water at a lower cost could be on the horizon after researchers from The University of Texas at Austin and Penn State solved a complex problem that had baffled scientists for decades, until now.

Desalination membranes remove salt and other chemicals from water, a process critical to the health of society, cleaning billions of gallons of water for agriculture, energy production and drinking. The idea seems simple — push salty water through and clean water comes out the other side — but it contains complex intricacies that scientists are still trying to

understand.

The research team, in partnership with DuPont Water Solutions, solved an important aspect of this mystery, opening the door to reduce costs of clean water production. The researchers determined desalination membranes are inconsistent in density and mass distribution, which can hold back their performance. Uniform density at the nanoscale is the key to increasing how much clean water these membranes can create.

“Reverse osmosis membranes are widely used for cleaning water, but there’s still a lot we don’t know about them,” said Manish Kumar, an associate pro-

fessor in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at UT Austin, who co-led the research. “We couldn’t really say how water moves through them, so all the improvements over the past 40 years have essentially been done in the dark.”

The findings were published today in Science.

The paper documents an increase in efficiency in the membranes tested by 30%-40%, meaning they can clean more water while using significantly less energy. That could lead to increased access to clean water and lower water bills for individual homes and large users alike.

Reverse osmosis mem-

branes work by applying pressure to the salty feed solution on one side. The minerals stay there while the water passes through. Although more efficient than non-membrane desalination processes, it still takes a large amount of energy, the researchers said, and improving the efficiency of the membranes could reduce that burden.

“Fresh water management is becoming a crucial challenge throughout the world,” said Enrique Gomez, a professor of chemical engineering at Penn State who co-led the research. “Shortages, droughts — with increasing severe weather patterns, it is expected this problem

will become even more significant. It’s critically important to have clean water availability, especially in low-resource areas.”

The National Science Foundation and DuPont, which makes numerous desalination products, funded the research. The seeds were planted when DuPont researchers found that thicker membranes were actually proving to be more permeable. This came as a surprise because the conventional knowledge was that thickness reduces how much water could flow through the membranes.

The team connected with Dow Water Solutions, which is now a part of DuPont, in 2015 at a “wa-

ter summit” Kumar organized, and they were eager to solve this mystery. The research team, which also includes researchers from Iowa State University, developed 3D reconstructions of the nanoscale membrane structure using state-of-the-art electron microscopes at the Materials Characterization Lab of Penn State. They modeled the path water takes through these membranes to predict how efficiently water could be cleaned based on structure. Greg Foss of the Texas Advanced Computing Center helped visualize these simulations, and most of the calculations were performed on Stampede2, TACC’s supercomputer.

SBA extends COVID-19 disaster loan application deadline to end of 2021

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration (<https://www.sba.gov/>) today announced that the deadline to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan [EIDL] (<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>) program for the COVID-19 Pandemic disaster declaration is extended to Dec. 31, 2021. The deadline extension comes as a result of the recent bipartisan COVID-19 relief bill passed by Congress and enacted by President Trump on Dec. 27, 2020.

To date, the SBA has approved \$197 billion in low-interest loans which provides working capital funds to small businesses, non-profits and agricultural businesses make it through this challenging time.

“Following the President’s declaration of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the SBA has approved over 3.6 million loans through our Economic Injury Disaster Loan program nationwide,” Administrator Jovita Carranza said. “The EIDL program has assisted millions of small businesses, including non-profit organiza-

tions, sole proprietors and independent contractors, from a wide array of industries and business sectors, to survive this very difficult economic environment.”

EIDL loan applications will continue to be accepted through December 2021, pending the availability of funds. Loans are offered at very affordable terms, with a 3.75% interest rate for small businesses and 2.75% interest rate for nonprofit organizations, a

30-year maturity, and an automatic deferment of one year before monthly payments begin. Every eligible small business and nonprofit are encouraged to apply (<http://www.sba.gov/disaster>) to get the resources they need.

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of

the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to

start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA

field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit <http://www.sba.gov>.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 4566 Lemmon Avenue, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75219, Lat: [32-49-10.254], Long: [-96-48-52.002]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Abby, a.mckay@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot Monopole Small Cell Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 4311 Plaza Drive, Irving, Dallas County, TX 75063, Lat: [32-54-43.54], Long: [-97-0-31.78]. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1161445.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Alicia, a.santucci@trileaf.com, [2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388].

Demand for convalescent plasma grows as COVID-19 cases continue to surge

HOUSTON (24-7Press-Release) -- Around the country and especially in Texas, positive COVID-19 cases continue to break records seemingly every day. As the transmission rates rise, so do hospitalizations and deaths related to complications caused by the virus. In states with especially high infection and hospitalization rates, blood donation centers are having a hard time keeping up with the demand for plasma containing effective antibodies from COVID-19 survivors to treat ill patients.

Texas blood centers are becoming overwhelmed by convalescent plasma orders from local hospitals as the state currently has the 2nd highest COVID-19 infection rate in the US. A spokesperson for LifeShare Blood Center in Beaumont stated, "For convalescent plasma, we have very, very little. The hospitals are ordering a lot of it daily. We are unable to keep up with the demand." She added

that at one time they had only half a day's worth of plasma from donors to provide to hospitals.

Other blood centers in California, the state which currently has the highest number of COVID-19 infections in the country, are battling a similar issue. The medical director of the American Red Cross in Northern California stated, "We collect between 800 and 1,000 units of convalescent plasma a day nationwide. And we're still sending it to the hospitals the minute we have it. We can't keep up in some cases depending on which blood type is needed."

A few groups and organizations have stepped up during the pandemic to offer their blood plasma for sick patients. One of these groups is called the Survivor Corps, a grassroots group boasting 100,000 members set on ending the pandemic through mobilizing efforts to gather convalescent plasma donations. In

August the US FDA issued an EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) allowing for the use of convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19 patients. Shortly after, it was reported that the plasma had reached over 70,000 Americans with the virus.

Another organization based out of South Korea called Shincheonji Church of Jesus held three record-breaking convalescent plasma donation drives in which almost 6,000 donations from members took place from July to December.

Some members donated in two or even all three drives. The donated plasma was used to treat COVID-19 patients and for research in developing other effective treatments and vaccines. One 78-year-old COVID-19 patient who recently received plasma from the Shincheonji drives fully recovered as a last effort to treat him after remdesivir and dexamethasone did not work. The Deputy Director of the Central

Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters in Korea stated about the donation, "We are grateful for the active participation of Shincheonji, and for the cooperation of the City of Daegu and the Korean Red Cross."

Although generous donations have already been made for treatment of patients ill with COVID-19, more convalescent plasma donations are desperately needed since COVID-19 case numbers have continued to increase since the

Christmas and New Year holidays. Blood donation centers and hospitals are asking those who are eligible to make an appointment at their nearest donation center and give plasma to help those suffering with the virus.

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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot Monopole Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is red medium intensity. The Site location is 4849 Regent Blvd., Irving, Dallas County, TX, 75063, Lat: [32-56-3.5016], Long: [-97-0-40.9212]. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1161463.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. **HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*



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Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel

church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website www.bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the Coronavirus.

January 10, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

January 13, 7 pm

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus.

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See CHURCH, Page 14

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**LIMITED WAIT LIST OPENING FOR
MAINSTREAM HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS**

12/30/20

The Housing Authority of the City of McKinney (MHA) announces a limited wait list opening for Mainstream Housing Choice Vouchers. MHA will accept applications online at 10:30am on January, 21, 2021 only. This opening is ONLY for individuals and families who have a family member who:

- Is non-elderly (between ages 18 and 61), AND
- Has a verifiable disability, AND
- Is either experiencing homelessness OR is a current resident in an eligible institution or congregate setting primarily for persons with disabilities

Applications are not available at the McKinney Housing Authority. Apply at home or anywhere you have internet access. You can also use your smart phone or tablet. If you believe you/your family meets these criteria, you may be added to the wait list by submitting an application at www.mckinneyha.org/Section8. Verification of your age, disability, and homelessness or residence in an eligible institution or congregate setting will be requested by MHA when processing for eligibility.

Eligible applicants experiencing homelessness may also be added to the wait list through a coordinated referral by the following partner agencies: Metro Care, Samaritan Inn, CPSH, and The Bridge-Dallas. If you are living outside, in a car, or in an emergency shelter, please visit www.metrocareservices.org for information.

**APERTURA DE LISTA DE ESPERA LIMITADA PARA
VALES DE ELECCIÓN DE VIVIENDA PRINCIPAL**

30/12/20

La Autoridad de Vivienda de la Ciudad de McKinney (MHA) anuncia la apertura de una lista de espera limitada para los Vales de Elección de Vivienda de Mainstream. MHA aceptará solicitudes en línea a las 10:30 am del 21 de enero de 2021 únicamente. Esta apertura es SOLO para personas y familias que tienen un familiar que:

- No es mayor de edad (entre 18 y 61 años), Y
- Tiene una discapacidad verificable Y
- Está experimentando la falta de vivienda O es un residente actual en una institución elegible o un entorno congregado principalmente para personas con discapacidades

Las solicitudes no están disponibles en la Autoridad de Vivienda de McKinney. Solicite en casa o en cualquier lugar donde tenga acceso a Internet. También puede utilizar su teléfono inteligente o tableta. Si cree que usted o su familia cumplen con estos criterios, pueden agregarlo a la lista de espera enviando una solicitud en www.mckinneyha.org/Section8. La MHA solicitará la verificación de su edad, discapacidad y falta de vivienda o residencia en una institución elegible o entorno congregado al procesar la elegibilidad.

Los solicitantes elegibles que estén sin hogar también pueden agregarse a la lista de espera a través de una referencia coordinada por las siguientes agencias asociadas: Metro Care, Samaritan Inn, CPSH y The Bridge-Dallas. Si vive afuera, en un automóvil o en un refugio de emergencia, visite www.metrocareservices.org para obtener información.

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Red Isn't Always the Red I See

By Dr. James L. Snyder

It is not that I am color-blind; I just am color indifferent. Red and blue and yellow are all the same to me.

This, on many occasions, has challenged the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, who is very meticulous when it comes to describing anything or

anyone.

In remodeling my office at the parsonage my wife asked, "What color would you like the walls to be painted?"

That sounds like a good question to ask but it's not any question to ask if you know me.

"I don't care about the color. Whatever you think is best is okay with me."

Thinking I had solved the problem, I felt at ease, but her response caused me to realize the problem had not been solved.

"It's your office," she said, "what color would you like the walls to be painted?" With that, she looked at me with a very gregarious smile, which is infectious to me.

Knowing that she

wouldn't stop until she got an answer from me I said, "Paint the walls purple."

As far as I was concerned, it didn't matter what color the walls were. I wasn't going to be studying the walls when I was in my study.

Looking at me for a moment, she finally said, "Okay, I'll paint it white."

I'm beginning to learn

how to solve problems in our house.

Color doesn't mean very much to me. When I get dressed Sunday morning, my wife is very concerned that my tie matches my suit, and my suit matches my shoes as far as the color aspect is concerned.

To me, the only thing that counts is, does it fit?

It finally came down on

me the other day. We were doing our final shopping for Christmas, and I still had a couple of gifts to purchase, and she had a shopping cart full of gifts to buy.

We were just about done when I remembered a present I wanted to get, and I had completely forgotten about it. So I asked my

See RED, Page 15

CHURCH, from Page 13

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP" We are Saving You a Seat!

Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

January 10

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

January 13, 7 pm

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

January 8, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

January 10, 10 a.m.
Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

January 11, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
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www.Ibocchurch.org

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Check "SMBC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

January 10, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

January 11, 7 to 8 pm Every Monday Night

Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

January 13, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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Wrestling with God



Sister Tarpley
NDG
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Editor

"The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip."

- Genesis 32:31

Jacob was a man who was a controller. He connived and manipulated his way to get what he wanted. It was a generational stronghold passed down through his mother, who encouraged her son to play a trick on his father, Isaac, by pretending to be Esau.

This trick led Isaac to give the family blessing to Jacob, which meant Jacob would eventually inherit the land God had promised to Abraham's seed.

Jacob also learned control from his uncle Laban who caused Jacob to work for 14 years to take Rachel

as his lifelong mate. One must ask which was uglier in God's sight, the self-centered nature and worldliness of Esau, or the control and manipulation of Jacob?

Control is a problem for men and women. Many women use sex to control their husbands. Many men use power and force to control their wives. Control is at the core of that which is opposite the cross-self-rule.

What delivers us from this fleshly nature of control? A crisis. Jacob's crisis came when he was faced with the prospect of meeting a brother who said he would kill him the next time he saw him.

Esau had built his own clan and was about to meet Jacob and his clan in the middle of the desert. Jacob was fearful, so he retreated. There he met a messenger from God who wrestled with him.

Jacob clung to God and refused to let go of this angel. It is the place where



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jacob was given a painful but necessary spiritual heart transplant.

From that point on, Jacob would walk with a limp, because God had to dislocate his hip in order to overcome Jacob's strong will.

For work place believers, God often has to "dislocate our hip" through failure and disappointment. Sometimes it is the only way He can get our attention.

Our nature to control and manipulate is so strong that

it takes a catastrophic event to wake us up. Yet, God did not reject Jacob for these character traits.

In fact, God blessed him greatly because He saw something in Jacob that pleased Him. He saw a humble and contrite heart beneath the cold and manipulative exterior of Jacob's life, and it was that trait that God needed to develop.

He did this by bringing about the crisis in Jacob's

life that led to total consecration. This event was marked by Jacob getting a new name, Israel.

For the first time, Jacob had a nature change, not just a habit change. What will God have to do in our lives to gain our complete consecration to His will and purposes?

"Beware of the Christian leader who does not walk with a limp." Talk to God and offer yourself to Him as an open vessel. Ask Him to work in your life and accomplish His will through you.

Every little thing and every great thing that is ac-

complished praise God for it and give Him all the glory. Thank Him for blessing your life with His power and presence; in Jesus' precious name.

Help Carrollton celebrate Dr. MLK, Jr.'s Day starting with the Kickoff on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 4 pm, at 1837 West Frankford Road #122, Carrollton, TX 75007 sponsored by The Daiquiris Shoppe and Inspiring Lives, Inc. with Texas Tre Williams and ending at the Carrollton Downtown Square celebration on Saturday, January 16, at 1 pm with a live band, awards ceremony and food trucks.

RED, from Page 14

wife, who was the chauffeur at the time, if she could stop at a store so that I could go in and get my final Christmas gift. I was almost exhausted, but this was the end.

She parked in the parking lot, and as I got out, I said, "I won't be long."

I did not pay attention to the parking lot as I left the car and went into the store. I have no reason to check it out and evaluate every vehicle on that parking lot. The only thing on my mind was to go in, purchase by gift, get out, back into the car and go home.

I do know the car my wife has is red. That's about as far as I can go with that. So, when I left the shopping store, I was looking for a red car.

It seemed like an effortless thing to do, but as I looked up and down the parking lot, there must've been thousands of red cars. Not quite, but it seemed that way. From my perspective, they all looked alike. I

could not remember what kind of car my wife had, only that it was red. The fact that I remembered it was red was something.

I went to the first red car, there was nobody there and the doors were locked, so I went to several others. I could not find the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I was almost tempted to phone in a missing person's alert; perhaps the police could find her better than me.

I did have my cell phone with me, and I thought about calling her to find out where she was. But if I did, I would have to live with that for the rest of my life. You know how that goes!

I decided to continue my search, and I looked at one red car after another and could not find her anywhere. Perhaps I took too long shopping, and she got tired of waiting and went home.

I'm thinking of putting a little white flag on the top of her car's antenna so that

I could at least find her that way. But I had to find her first.

Then I heard a horn blow, and I looked down the row, and there was a hand out the window waving at me. So, there she was in plain view.

I was a little exasperated when I got to the car, but then it got a little worse. She was playing a joke on me. As soon as I walked into the store, she moved her car. There was no possibility of me finding it under those circumstances.

When I got to the car, she was laughing hysterically, and between laughs, she said, "I gotcha."

I had to admit that she did get me this time. Even if I could've remembered what kind of car it was, it was not where I had expected it to be. I don't think I will ever live this one down.

As we were driving home, she was sitting on the driver side smiling while I was sitting on the passenger side thinking. A verse of Scripture came to my mind. "The hearing

ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them" (Proverbs 20:12).

What I have learned in my lifetime is that hearing and seeing are crucial elements in every relationship.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship (www.whatafellowship.com).



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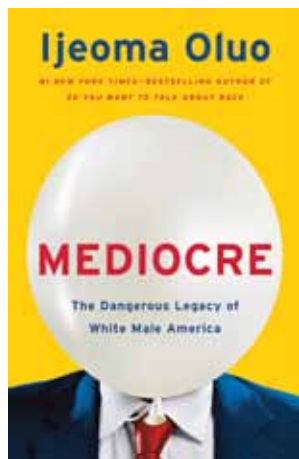
NDG Book Review: 'Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

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 Oluo, 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 Oluo 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, Oluo 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, Oluo 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," Oluo 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 Oluo 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 moving forward. Oluo 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.

Crump calls for charges on woman who attacked Black teen over phone

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

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



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. (Photo via NNPA)

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, 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 treat-

ed 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 Keyon."

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