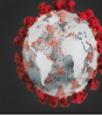


**MISSISSIPPI**  
18,483 CASES,  
868 DEATHS



## COVID-19 GLOBAL CRISIS



SEE 4A  
FOR MORE INFO

## Racist reactions to the Black Lives Matter Movement reflect the breadth and depth of American racism

By Ivory Phillips  
JA Contributing Editor

Black Americans have been impressed by good speeches and by supportive words from the likes of NFL Commissioner Roger Goddell and even Republican Senator Mitt Romney. At the same time, however, that does not blind the entire country to the continuing problem of racism. Racism is alive and well, both in the person of individuals, high and low, and in the policies and institutions of this country.

During the last two weeks, Mississippians have witnessed several clear examples of such racism. State Attorney General Lynn Fitch dismissed the charges against white police officer Canyon Boykin for the killing of a black man, Ricky Ball. Columbus municipal officials had apparently felt that Boykin was guilty of

misconduct, since they had fired him from the police force. Meanwhile, due to other circumstances, the local prosecutor had turned the case over to the attorney general's office for prosecution. Now, 5 five years later, Fitch, a new attorney general, has decided not to prosecute and to dismiss the case in such a manner that it cannot be re-opened. Just another black man killed, and the dismissal will apparently put another feather in Fitch's cap.

Just a few days earlier, Petal mayor Hal Marx had suggested that Minneapolis resident George Floyd probably died of an overdose or a heart attack; that police officer Derek Chauvin had done nothing wrong. Although there were protests over the matter, his status probably rises in the mind of many other racists

See Reactions on 9A

## Thousands gather in downtown Jackson to protest against racism and injustice



Black Lives Matter Mississippi hosted the biggest city-wide and state-wide protest in Mississippi since the 1960s. On Saturday, June 6, protesters gathered in the thousands outside the governor's mansion to seek justice for George Floyd and others who have senselessly been killed just because of the color of their skin. See more on 2A. (Photo by Elgin Whavers)

## New law deprives special needs students of online schooling

By Earnest McBride  
JA Contributing Editor

While millions of dollars in public money will be diverted to private schools for special needs students in Mississippi, students with disabilities relying on public schools in most rural areas will be deprived of the chance for an adequate education under new laws that will likely pass in the current legislature.

Alice Dillon of Tylertown says she was sickened to her heart as she followed the path of Senate Bill 2594, the new

law that, if passed, would likely deprive her 11-year-old disabled son, Demyrion Tykel Dillon, of the online education program that has sustained him in recent years.

The section of SB 2594 that raises the ire of parents like Alice Dillon is the one that eliminates online schools from eligibility.

"I live in an area of Mississippi that has public schools," she said. "But none of the schools here, public or private, provide for special needs students. We're trying

to get them to put the schools we need down here in rural Mississippi. Other families like mine are having difficulties with their school districts. And it's their tax dollars. But, state and school authorities are blocking them from the opportunity of having a free public education for their children."

### A CORRUPT SYSTEM

Mrs. Dillon points out that 2594 is the derivative of an essentially corrupt system that State Auditor Shad White called "the largest public em-



Alice and Demyrion Dillon bezzlement scheme in state history."

See Schooling on 9A

## AG Fitch draws sharp criticism for dropping manslaughter charges against Columbus cop

By Earnest McBride  
JA Contributing Editor

Rally by Poor People's Campaign on June 5 against Attorney General Lynn Fitch

Racist social media posts, a ride-along-viewing by his girlfriend, and the October 2015 deadly shooting in the back of a Columbus man after shutting off his body cameras to avoid recording the incident wasn't enough to convince Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch that fired Columbus policeman Canyon Boykin should be dealt the swift hand of justice.

Instead, Fitch decided that Boykin should be set free.

"In fact," Fitch said in a May 29 press release, "all evidence, including forensics and the sworn statements of four separate MBI investigators, points to necessary self-defense."

Boykin is white and the man he killed, 25-year-old Ricky Ball, was black. Boykin filed a lawsuit against the city of Columbus, claiming "racial prejudice" in the decision to fire him because "he is white and the deceased was

See Columbus on 9A

## Hinds County Election Commission announces important changes for upcoming June and November elections

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT LOCATION	VOTING PRECINCT NUMBER	VOTING PRECINCT CURRENT LOCATION	VOTING PRECINCT TEMPORARY LOCATION
1	46	Christ United Methodist Church 6000 Old Canton Road Jackson, MS 39211	Ascension Luther Church 6481 Old Canton Road Jackson, MS 39211
2	C1	First Baptist Church Activity Building 100 E. College Street Clinton, MS 39056	Holy Ghost Baptist Church 203 W. Northside Drive Clinton, MS 39056
2	PN	Federation Towers 301 Federation Towers Drive Clinton, MS 39056	Holy Ghost Baptist Church 203 W. Northside Drive Clinton, MS 39056

### June 23rd polling location changes

JANS – As the health of Hinds County residents and the opportunity for each voter to participate in a fair voting process is of the utmost importance to the Hinds County Election Commission, the commission has been working closely with the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, the Hinds County Circuit Clerk, and the county administrator to address concerns regarding the Hinds County voting process

and COVID-19. Current recommended guidance from the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office and the CDC regarding elections processes is that polling locations housed in nursing homes and senior care facilities be relocated to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Also, as a precautionary measure to further reduce the chances of individuals contracting the virus, there are some local churches that

normally provide space for voting precincts that are currently closed to the public. Therefore, due to these concerns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hinds County Election Commission has determined the temporary relocation of three (3) polling locations (pictured above) is necessary to ensure public health safety during the June 23, 2020 Republican 2nd Congressional District Runoff Election only.

All voters impacted by these changes will receive notification cards via US Postal Mail. Other measures being taken to inform voters are:

- Signage at the current locations directing voters to the new temporary locations,
- Public Service Announcements and notices through local media, and
- Official Hinds County social media platforms.

See Election on 9A

## Family of another George still seeks justice in Jackson

JANS – The family of George Robinson are still fighting for justice for their loved one who died from police brutality on January 13, 2019.

Robinson, who would have turned 64 this coming August, died of blunt-force trauma to the head, allegedly by Jackson police officers. His death remains under investigation after being ruled a homicide by Hinds County Coroner Sharon Grisham Stewart. At Robinson's 63rd birthday celebration/memorial last August, the family's lawyer, Dennis Sweet, IV, said, "We know who did



Family of Robinson

it, but they have not been brought to justice. We want to see the officers prosecuted, and we want our community safe."

Hinds County District Attorney Jody E. Owens, II issued the following statement regarding the criminal investigations of George Robinson and Mario Clark,

See Justice on 9A

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HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY MR. ANDY HARDWICK.....18A

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