A LIE CANNOT LIVE - Martin Luther King, Jr.



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January 21 - 27, 2021

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

Biden takes the helm as president:

'DEMOCRACY HAS PREVAILED'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and ALEXANDRA JAFFE

— Joe Biden was sworn in battered by an insurrecas the 46th president of the tionist siege just two United States Wednesday, declaring that "democracy has prevailed" and summoning American resilience and unity to confront the deeply divided nation's historic confluence of of crowds because of the crises.

Biden took the oath at a

WASHINGTON (AP) U.S. Capitol that had been out weeks earlier. On a cold Washington morning dotted with snow flurries, the quadrennial ceremony unfolded within a circle of security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid coronavirus pandemic.

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

"The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We've learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my Instead, Biden gazed friends, democracy has

prevailed," Biden said. "This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A nomic toll and where sumday in history and hope, of renewal and resolve."

And then he pivoted to ing on racial injustice. challenges ahead, ing virus that has claimed more than 400,000 lives in the United States. Biden looked out over a capital city dotted with empty

storefronts that attest to the pandemic's deep ecomer protests laid bare the nation's renewed reckon-

"We have much to do in acknowledging the surg- this winter of peril, and absence underscored the significant possibilities: much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to gain," Biden said. "Few

people in our nation's history have more challenged, or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we're in now."

His predecessor's healing that is needed.

Flouting tradition, Donald Trump departed

Continue Biden Page 2



Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as Jill Biden holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.



Vice President Kamala Harris bumps fists with President-elect Joe Biden after she was sworn in during the inauguration, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, at (Jonathan Ernst/Pool Photo



the U.S. Capitol in Washington. President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden wave as they arrive at the North Portico of the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, Pool)



President Joe Biden speaks during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, Pool)



President-elect Joe Biden is joined his wife Jill Biden as they celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle during Inauguration Day ceremonies Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Vice President Harris: A new chapter opens in **US** politics

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND ALEXANDRA JAFFE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris broke the barrier that has kept men at the top ranks of American power for more than two centuries when she took the oath Wednesday to hold the nation's secondhighest office.

Harris was sworn in as the first female U.S. vice president — and the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to hold the position — in

front of the U.S. Capitol by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Later, she presided as Senate president for the first time to swear in three new Democratic senators, including her replacement.

The moment steeped in history and significance in more ways than one. She was escorted to the podium by Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, the

officer who single-handedly took on a mob of Trump supporters as they tried to breach the Senate floor during the Capitol insurrection that sought to overturn the election results. Harris was wearing clothes from two young, emerging Black designers — a deep purple President Joe Biden a fist expanding the idea of dress and coat.

After taking the oath of office, a beaming Harris any context, another particularly meaningful hugged her husband, moment when a stubborn



Kamala Harris is sworn in as vice president by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor as her husband Doug Emhoff holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.(Saul Loeb/Pool Photo via AP)

bump.

Douglas Emhoff, and gave boundary falls away, office at a moment when

possible what's Her rise is historic in American politics. But it's because Harris is taking

Americans are grappling over institutional racism and confronting a pandemic that has disproportionately devastated Black and Brown communities.







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EDITORIAL PAGE

IN OPEN LETTER TO DR. KING, STEVIE WONDER CALLS FOR **EQUALITY**

NEW YORK (AP) — Stevie Wonder, whose advocacy helped make the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday, is urging the incoming Biden administration to form a national commission on equality.

Wonder released a video message Monday in the form of an open letter

to King, who was assassinated in 1968 and whose birthday was made a federal holiday late in 1983. Wonder met King when he was a teenager and later wrote the tribute song "Happy Birthday," which urged that the government formally establish a Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

King was born Jan. 15, 1929, and his birthday celebrated on the third Monday in January.

"For 36 years, we've had a national holiday honoring your birthday and principles, and you would not believe the lack of progress. It makes me physically sick," Wonder said in his message.

"It is time for all to take the only stand. We can not be afraid to confront a lie and a liar. Those in leadership who won't or don't acknowledge the truth should be held accountable. Dr. King, these times require courage, as they did when you lived and paid the ultimate price."

Amidst 21st-Century Racial Strife, 20th-Century African American History At Risk of Being Lost **Forever**

Nation's Largest African American Video Oral History Archive Makes Loss **Prevention Its Mission**

Chicago, IL – January 14, 2021) America sits at a critically important cross-roads in the 21st century. Racist ideology is on the rise and significant parts of 20th-century African American history and culture are at risk of being forever. lost The HistoryMakers, nation's largest African American video oral history archive a 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Chicago, has made preventing this loss its mission. Yet, in 2021, it finds itself in a race against

American experience. We must work together to massively digitize the personal collections of our HistoryMakers and other African American leaders, making them accessible worldwide. Otherwise, the continued distortions, falsehoods, and stereotypes that adversely impact the perceptions of African American contri-Our need is urgent, as eviyear, especially as the next generation of storytellers,



ards of our legacy are now the black experience, with taking the lead," says its archives containing Julieanna Richardson, almost 3,400 video oral Founder and President of history interviews (over only reinforce the need to our HistoryMakers have Mexico, the Caribbean, ABC's Shark preserve and elevate the repositories for their per- and Norway. In December Daymond John, truth about the African sonal collections. We are of 2020, for its twentieth Foundation committed to finding solutions that will more aggressively stem this loss," adds Richardson, who urges the involvement of everyone, including the federal government, corporations, foundations, organizations, and individuals. For example, in 2019, The HistoryMakers worked with the Library of Congress and Harvard's butions to our culture and Schlesinger Library to democracy will continue. ensure the preservation of the papers of their respecdenced by the events of tive HistoryMakers Jessye last year and so far this Norman and Angela Davis.

The HistoryMakers is changemakers, and stew- the digital repository for Whip James E. Clyburn,

anniversary, HistoryMakers convened twenty days of panels highlighting the magnitude of this problem across various subject matters, professions, and regions, with over 100 of the nation's African American leadership participating. Participants included former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Merck CEO Kenneth C. Frazier, activist, author, and professor Angela Davis, NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson, U.S. House Representatives Majority

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Retired Four-Star Army General Vincent K. Brooks, NAACP Legal Defense Fund president Sherrilyn Ifill, actor Danny Glover, singer Dionne Warwick, Essence magazine cofounder Edward Lewis, leaders of the four remaining HBCU medical schools, National Council of Negro Women chair Johnnetta Betsch Cole, president of Prairie View A&M University and former president of Brown University Ruth Simmons, comedian and radio per-"The challenges facing The HistoryMakers. "To 11,000 hours) recorded in sonality Rickey Smiley, our country at this moment date, a fraction of 1% of 413 U.S. cities and towns, FUBU founder and star of president The Darren Walker. Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem Thelma Golden, among others.

HistoryMaker Howard Dodson, Director Emeritus of Howard University Libraries and Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, notes: "Our nation's mainstream institutions have not approached their preservation work equitably to be inclusive of the African American experience, creating a heritage gap that is contributing to the divisions in America we are experiencing today.

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Continued Biden Page 1

Washington Wednesday morning ahead of the inauguration rather than accompany his successor to the Capitol.

Trump did adhere to one tradition and left a note for Biden in the Oval Office, according to the White House, which did not release its contents. And Trump, in his farewell remarks, hinted at a political return, saying "we will be back in some form."

Trump's second impeachment trial could start as early as this week. That could test the ability of the Senate, poised to come under Democratic control, to balance impeachment proceedings with confirmation hearings and votes on Biden's Cabinet choices.

Page 3

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"A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"

St. JOHN 10:22-42

Jesus' Confrontation with Jewish Leaders FEAST OF DEDICATION

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The occasion for this most sublime section of John's Gospel (St. John 10:22-42) is the Feast of Dedication, or today commonly called Hanukkah or Feast of Lights. The Feast of Dedication was the time of celebration for the Jews in their commemoration of the temple being purified. As they reflected about this dedication, they recalled in the past when the temple was defiled by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 B.C. and it was purified by Judas Maccabeus in 165 B.C. The time for this grand occasion took place in the winter during the month of December, and it also followed the commemoration of the the eight day occasion was in Feast of Tabernacles which took place in October. Citing

the significance of the time taking place in the winter, it was noteworthy that the window of opportunity for the Jews' acceptance of Jesus was clos-

Jesus had wrought miracles after miracles that attested to His claim that He was indeed the Messiah who came to save people, but the Jewish leaders remained callous in their rejection of Him who saves! Isn't that worth pondering! Jesus Christ, the matchless Lamb of God, came down as a missionary gift from the Father to His own people, and they rejected His person and works! As verses 22 and 23 state, the time of the winter, with Jesus walking on the east side of Solomon's

porch or colonnade. The persistent unbelieving Jewish leaders presented themselves in verse 24, with a probing question that plagued their hearts, for they uttered: "How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly." Although Jesus had not declared openly Messiahship to the Jewish leaders nor to the multitudes at large, yet these Jewish leaders had ample proof that He was the Messiah because of His mighty works (miracles) He had demonstrated (Isaiah 35:5-

The nation at large (the Jewish nation) should have known that Jesus is the Messiah because of one great miracle which He wrought – the healing

7). The prominence of Jesus' healing blind men in the gospels is an attestation that He is the Messiah. In retrospect, I know that He is the Messiah and the Savior of mankind because He healed my spiritual blindness, for now I can see clearly! In verses 25 and 26, our blessed Lord responded to these Jewish leaders that His miracles point to the fact that He is from the Father. However, the reason for their unbelief is that they are not His sheep. The Lord goes on to say in verse 27 that His sheep will respond to His teaching and will follow Him, which evidence a wonderful intimacy. Yes, those who are truly sheep of Christ will follow Him in loving obedience to His command. Two of the most beautiful

of the blind man (St. John 9:1-

verses that convey the eternal security of the believer are found in verse 28 and 29. These two verses emphatically teach that a believer will never be lost. As believers, we are always under the secure custody of God; and it is impossible for

of God's awesome promises found in His Word. Some of the awesome promises found in John's gospel are: St. John 3:16; 36; 5:24; 6:37; 10:28-29; 11:25-26. As believers, we are safe and secure in the protective hands of the Father and the Son (v. 29). In verse 30, our blessed Lord affirmed His absolute equality in nature and unity with the Father. Both the Father and the Son are in unison in nature, perfection and glory. As a result of Christ's emphatic claim in verse 30, the Jewish leaders evidence their rejection of His claim to be equal with the Father by taking up stones to stone Him (v. 31). Their violent response of His dynamic claim indicated the depravity of their hearts.

one believer to be lost because

In verse 32, our Lord appeals to these leaders that during the course of His entire ministry it met the full appraisal of His Father. Of course, in verse 33, the Jewish leaders rejected Him because of His claim to be equal with the Father – thus accusing Jesus of blasphemy. In verses

34-36, Jesus responded to these Jewish leaders by citing Psalm 82:1, 6 in reference to the fact that in certain instances men were "gods," that is, human judges and that the scripture cannot be broken. If men can be called "gods" or human judges, then the Jewish leaders could not accuse Jesus of blasphemy for calling Himself the Son of God. Thus, with the scripture, Jesus logically defended Himself.

Although the Jews did not believe Christ's word, the miracles that He wrought served as signs that indicated His oneness with the Father (v. 37-38). In verse 39, another attempt was made to capture Jesus, but He supernaturally escaped because "His time had not yet come." Finally, in verse 40-42, our blessed Lord removed Himself from the hostile leaders, and went across the Jordan to Perea which was one location John the Baptist ministered. In this region, Jesus' ministry was well received.

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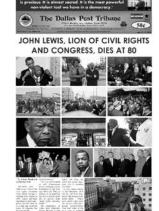
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Two Fox News political executives out after Arizona call

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Two of Fox News Channel's top news executives involved in the controversial — but correct — election night call of Arizona for Democrat Joe Biden are out at the network.

Bill Sammon, senior vice president and managing editor at Fox's Washington bureau, announced his retirement to staff members on Monday. On Tuesday, as part of a restructuring of Fox's digital operations, politics editor Chris Stirewalt was let go.

Fox's decision to call Arizona for Biden took the network's anchors by surprise and infuriated the White House, which believed the determination was premature.

Stirewalt and Fox's desk chief, decision Arnon Mishkin, were the two most visible people defending the decision on the air amidst heat from President Donald Trump his supporters. Mishkin, who worked the election on a contractual basis, is not a Fox employee.

Two days after the call, Stirewalt said on the air that "Arizona is doing just what we expected it to do and we remain serene and pristine."

He hasn't been on the air at Fox since the postelection period.

Reached on Tuesday, Stirewalt and Sammon declined comment. Fox, in a statement on Tuesday, said that "as we conclude the 2020 election cycle, Fox News Digital has realigned its business and reporting structure to meet the demands of this new era."

Nearly 20 people lost their jobs as part of the restructuring, according to someone familiar with the changes who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not allowed to speak on personnel issues.

No one at Fox would comment specifically on Stirewalt, citing the confidentiality of individual personnel matters. He's been with Fox since 2010.

Fox and The Associated Press, which called Arizona for Biden later on election night, remained alone until ABC, CBS and NBC all called it for Biden on Nov. 12, eight days after the election and after all the networks had declared Biden the winner overall. Biden won Arizona by 10,475 votes out of nearly 3.4 million cast.

The call angered many Fox News Channel fans. In its wake, conservative broadcaster Newsmax, which has featured many of the personalities who backed Trump's questioning of the election results, saw a sharp viewership increase.

Fox's ratings have dipped as a result, and the network recently announced lineup changes that most prominently added a new opinion show in the early evening.

Trump baby protest blimp enters Museum of London collection



FILE - In this file photo taken Tuesday, July 10, 2018, a sixmeter high cartoon baby blimp depicting U.S. President Donald Trump in north London. AP Photo/Matt Dunham, **FILE**

LONDON (AP) — The Trump Baby Blimp will live on long after its namesake has left the White House.

The Museum of London said Monday that it had added the giant balloon, which depicts Donald Trump as a screaming orange baby, to its collection as an illustration of the protests that greeted the U.S. president when he visited the city in 2018.

"By collecting the baby blimp, we can mark the wave of feeling that washed over the city that day and capture a particular moment of resistance," Sharon Ament, the museum's director, said in a statement.

The blimp become part of the museum's protest collection, which includes artifacts from women's suffrage movement, peace activists who opposed the war in Iraq during the early 2000s, and more recent protests against public spending cuts.

The Trump Baby Blimp was designed by a group of friends who met in a London pub to discuss how they could speak out against Trump's policies. What they came up with was a giant balloon that caricatured Trump as a diapered screaming, baby clutching a smart phone and topped by a quiff of yellow hair.

The blimp flew outside the Houses of Parliament on July 13. 2018, when thousands demonstrators crammed the streets of central London protest Trump's visit to the capital.

"We hope the baby's place in the museum will stand as a reminder of when London stood against Trump, but will prompt those who see it to examine how they can continue the fight against the politics of hate," the blimp's creators said in the statement.

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HARRISBURG, (AP) — Federal authorities are looking for a woman whose former romantic partner says she took a laptop from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office during the riot at the U.S. Capitol earlier this month.

The FBI said in an arrest warrant Sunday, however, that Riley June Williams hasn't been charged with theft but only with illegally entering the Capitol and with disorderly conduct.

FBI officials said a caller

Williams said friends of hers showed him a video of her taking a laptop computer or hard drive from Pelosi's office. The caller alleged that she intended to send the device to a friend in Russia who planned to sell it to that country's foreign intelligence service, but that plan fell through and she either has the device or destroyed it. The FBI says the matter remains

under investigation. Pelosi's deputy chief of

claiming to be an ex of staff, Drew Hammill, confirmed Jan. 8 that a laptop was taken from a conference room but said "it was a laptop that was only used for presentations."

Williams' mother, who lives with her in Harrisburg, told ITV reporters that her daughter had taken a sudden interest in President Donald Trump's politics and "farright message boards." Her father, who lives in Camp Hill, told local law enforcement that he and his daughter went to Washington on her.

the day of the protest but didn't stay together, meeting up later to return to Harrisburg, the FBI said.

FBI officials said they believe Williams "has fled." Her mother told local law enforcement that she packed a bag and left, saying she would be gone for a couple of weeks. She also changed her phone number and deleted a number of social media accounts, the FBI said. Court documents don't list an attorney for





7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Jan. 21

Friday, Jan. 22

Saturday, Jan. 23

Sunday, Jan. 24

Monday, Jan. 25

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Wednesday, Jan. 27





 H - $59^{^{\circ}}$ L - 49°





L - 61°







San Francisco rookie running back JaMycal Hasty rehabs at mom's in Arlington



Jamycal Signs jersys at mothers home

When it comes to pro football loyalties, 'one size does not fit all,' even in the home region of the Dallas Cowboys, the squad dubbed "America's Team."

There are several groups of fans across the DFW Metroplex who are devoted to other NFL teams, including the San Francisco 49ers. (FYI – There are more than 7.3million people living in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex - which is more than the population of 38 states!)

One of the

groups, 'Niner DFW Empire Fan Club' got together recently to meet and greet a 49ers player living recovering Arlington, from a season ending injury.

San Francisco rookie running back JaMycal Hasty, was the guest of honor at the fan club's get together on Sunday, January 3, 2021, to watch the 49ers season ending game versus Seattle.

It was a "Meet & Greet" organized by McConnell, Carlton CEO of Round the Clock Media & PR Firm. Dozens of 'Niner fans' came out to the beautiful Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux, 401 Interstate 20 Arlington. They got to 'fist bump' with Hasty, take photos and get his autograph.

The 24-year-old native of Longview, Texas, who played in eight games for San Francisco this past NFL season, broke his collarbone in a game in early November. He had surgery in the Bay Area then came back to Arlington, where his mother lives, to recover and to rehab from his injury.

Hasty, a free-agent from Baylor University, where he became among the top 12 rushers of alltime, impressed the 49ers enough to be signed to a two-year contract. His play and enthusiasm caught the attention of San Francisco fans and he quickly became a fan favorite on social media as well as mainstream sports media in the Bay area and beyond.

During his time at Baylor, Hasty twice was chosen to the Big 12 All-Academic second team. He graduated with an undergraduate degree in health, kinesiology, and leisure studies in August 2018 and since then he's been pursuing a Master's

Dallas to rename street after shooting victim **Botham Jean**

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas City Council unanimously approved the renaming of a stretch of street after Botham Jean, a Black man who was shot and killed by a white Dallas police officer who said she mistook his apartment for her own.

The vote Wednesday to rename the stretch of South Lamar Street "Botham Jean Boulevard" came after more than 90 minutes of public testimony and discussion by the City Council, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"I'm imploring this council to seriously think about the message we want to send as a city by letting this come up to the point of actually voting on this, having this family participating in this process, and putting that family through



FILE - In this Sept. 21, 2017, file photo, provided by Harding University in Searcy, Ark., Botham Jean leads worship at a university presidential reception in Dallas. (Jeff Montgomery/Harding University via AP, File)

any more pain than they've been through," Mayor Eric Johnson said before the 15-0 vote.

Amber Guyger shot Jean, who was 26, in his apartment after returning home from her shift. Guyger, now 32, testified at her trial that she thought he was an intruder in her apartment, which was on a different floor of the apartment building.

Botham Jean Boulevard will run between Interstate 30 and the South Central Expressway. stretch of road will be renamed within 60 days and will cost an estimated \$20,000.

Guyger, who was fired after shooting Jean, was convicted of murder in his death and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Jean's family has a pending federal lawsuit against her and the city.

DCHHS COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

How to register for a vaccination?

COVID-19 Vaccine is still in very limited supply and is still being prioritized to Phase 1A Healthcare Workers. However, limited supplies of vaccine may be available for persons who meet the Phase 1B criteria (Persons 65 and older, or persons 16+ with underlying medical conditions). DCHHS is collecting names of persons to register for the vaccine, as vaccine becomes available. To register for the vaccine, you need to be in Phase 1A or 1B at this time. Again, those groups include doctors, nurses, first responders, as well as individuals 65 and older and 18 or older with an underlying medical condition. Dallas County is distributing the Moderna vaccine at this time, which is only available to individuals 18 and older.

Each entity that is distributing the vaccine may approach this process differently, so if you plan to receive your immunization from a hospital, pharmacy or doctor, it will be a different registration process.

Register Online:

https://www.dallascounty.or g/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination.php

Register by Phone:

The number for the **DCHHS** Vaccine Registration Hotline is 469-749-9900. The hotline hours are Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm. Registration assistance is available in English and Spanish.

Who chooses who gets vaccinated first? Many people want to be at the front of the line when it comes time to receive the vaccine. The Advisory Committee on Immunization **Practices** (ACIP) has met and issued guidance on who should receive the vaccine first. Similarly, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has a committee to direct how the vaccine should be distributed in Texas. At this time DSHS has created Phase 1A and 1B. DCHHS is following CDC and state guidelines for the administration of the vaccine. As more vaccine is made available

additional groupings will be

added until everyone is cov-

ered. If you are not sure if you are in Phase 1A or 1B, there is a more detailed definition here:

Phase 1A First Tier

Paid and unpaid workers in hospital settings working directly with patients who are positive or at high risk for COVID-19. Such as but limited (a) Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.) (b) Additional clinical staff providing supporting laboratory, pharmacy, diagnostic and/or rehabilitation services (c) Others having direct contact with patients or infectious materials

Long-term care staff working directly with vulnerable residents. Includes: Direct providers at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and state supported living centers (b) Physicians, nurses, personal care assistants, custodial, food service

EMS providers who

engage in 9-1-1 emergency services like prehospital care and trans-

Home health care workers, including hospice care, who directly interface with vulnerable and high-risk patients Residents of long-term care facilities

Phase 1A Second Tier

Staff in outpatient care settings who interact symptomatic patients. Such as but not limited to: (a) Physicians, nurses, and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.) (b) Clinical staff providing diagnostic, laboratory, and/or rehabilitation services (c) Non-9-1-1 transport **Phase 1B** routine care (d) Healthcare workers corrections and detention facilities staff in freestanding

Community pharmacy staff who may provide direct services to clients, including vacci-

care clinics

emergency medical care

facilities and urgent

nation or testing for individuals who may have COVID

Public health and emergency response staff directly involved in administration of COVID testing and vaccinations

Last responders who provide mortuary or death services to decedents COVID-19. with Includes: (a) Embalmers and funeral home workers who have direct contact decedents with (b) Medical examiners and other medical certifiers who have direct contact with decedents School nurses who provide health care to students and teachers

People 65 years of age and older

People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to:

- Cancer

- Chronic kidney dis-

ease COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease) - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or

- Solid organ transplan-

cardiomyopathies

tation - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m2 or

higher) - Pregnancy

- Sickle cell disease

- Type 2 diabetes melli-

COVID-19 VACCINATION **LOCATIONS**

Dallas County

Baylor University Center at Dallas Dallas County Health and Human Services Garland Health Department Parkland Memorial Hospital UT Southwestern Medical Center State Fair of Texas

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Inaugural poet Amanda Gorman: 'Even as we grieved, we grew.'

By **HILLEL ITALIE**

NEW YORK (AP) — The country has a new president and a new literary star. In one of the inauguration's most talked about moments, poet Amanda Gorman summoned images dire and triumphant Wednesday as she called out to the world "even as we grieved, we grew."

The 22-year-old Gorman referenced everything from Biblical scripture "Hamilton," and at times echoed the oratory of John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With urgency and assertion she began by asking "Where can we find light/In this never-ending shade?" and used her own poetry and life story as an answer. The poem's very title, "The Hill We Climb," suggested both labor and transcendence.

"We did not feel prepared to be the heirs

Of such a terrifying hour. But within it we've found the power

To author a new chapter, To offer hope and laughter to ourselves."

It was an extraordinary task for Gorman, who soon after finishing her poem helped inspire — along with Vice President Kamala Harris — the Twitter hashtag "#BlackGirlMagic and was being praised by former President Barack Obama



American poet Amanda Gorman reads a poem during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, Pool)

and former first lady Michelle Obama among others. Gorman is the youngest by far of the poets who have read at presidential inaugurations since Kennedy invited Robert Frost in 1961, with other predecessors including Angelou Maya Elizabeth Alexander. Mindful of the past, Gorman wore earrings and a caged bird ring — a tribute to Angelou's classic memoir "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" — given to her by Oprah Winfrey, a close friend of the late

"I have never been prouder to see another young woman rise! Brava B r a v a , @TheAmandaGorman! Maya Angelou is cheering—and so am I," Winfrey tweeted. Gorman was also praised by "Hamilton" playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda, who tweeted "YES & @TheAmandaGorman!!!"

Gorman, soon responded: "Thx @Lin_Manuel! Did you catch the 2 @HamiltonMusical references in the inaugural poem? I couldn't help myself!"

Among the "Hamilton" inspirations in her poem: "History has its eyes on us," a variation of the "Hamilton" song "History Has Its Eyes On You."

Gorman, a native and resident of Los Angeles and the country's first National Youth Poet Laureate, told The Associated Press last week that she planned to combine a message of hope for President Joseph Biden's inaugural without ignoring "the evidence of discord and division." She had completed a little more than half of "The Hill We Climb" before Jan. 6 and the siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.

"That day gave me a second wave of energy to finish the poem," Gorman told the AP. She had said that she would not mention Jan. 6 specifically, but her reference was unmistakable:

"We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it, Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.

And this effort very nearly succeeded.

be periodically delayed,

y succeeded.

But while democracy can

It can never be permanently defeated."

Frost's appearance at the Kennedy inaugural was a kind of valedictory — he was 86 and died two years later. Gorman's career is just beginning. Penguin Young Readers announced Wednesday that "The Hill We Climb" will be published in a special edition this spring. Two other books come out in September — the illustrated "Change Sings" and a volume of her inaugural poem and other works. Ceremonial odes often are quickly forgotten, but Angelou's "On the Pulse Of the Morning," which she read at the 1993 inaugural of President Clinton, went on to sell more than 1 mil-

By late Wednesday afternoon, "Change Sings" was No. 1 on Amazon.com's bestseller list, and her September poetry collection was No. 2. She had 206K Instagram followers and 121.3K Twitter followers at the end of the inauguration. Hours later, she had 1.3 million followers on Instagram and 738,000 on Twitter.

lion copies as a book.

Invited to the inaugural late last month by first lady Jill Biden, Gorman has read at official occasions before — including a July 4 celebration when she was backed by the Boston Pops Orchestra — and has previously met Michelle Obama and former first lady Hillary Clinton among others. She has also made clear her desire to appear at a future inaugural, in a much greater capacity, an ambition she stated firmly in her poem.

"We, the successors of a country and a time,

Where a skinny black girl.

Descended from slaves and raised by a single mother.

Can dream of becoming president,

Only to find herself reciting for one."

MCCONNELL: TRUMP 'PROVOKED' CAPITOL SIEGE, MOB WAS FED LIES

BY LISA MASCARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK



In this Jan. 6, 2021, photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., walks from the Senate floor to his office on Capitol Hill in Washington. Now that the House has impeached President Donald Trump for the second time, (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

WASHINGTON (AP)
— Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday explicitly blamed President Donald Trump for the deadly riot at the Capitol, saying the mob was "fed lies" and that the president and others "provoked" those intent on overturning Democrat Joe Biden's election.

Ahead of Trump's historic second impeachment trial, McConnell's remarks were his most severe and public rebuke of the outgoing president. The GOP leader is setting a tone as Republicans weigh whether to convict Trump on the impeachment charge that will soon be sent over from the House: "incitement of insurrection."

"The mob was fed lies,"

McConnell said. "They were provoked by the president and other powerful people, and they tried to use fear and violence to stop a specific proceeding of the first branch of the federal government which they did not like."

The Republican leader vowed a "safe and successful" inauguration of Biden on Wednesday at the Capitol, where final preparations were underway amid heavy security.

Trump's last full day in office Tuesday was also senators' first day back since the deadly Capitol siege and since the House voted to impeach him for his role in the riots — an unparalleled time of transition as the Senate prepares for the second impeachment trial in two years and presses ahead with the

confirmation of Biden's Cabinet.

Three new Democratic senators-elect are set to be sworn into office Wednesday shortly after Biden's inauguration, giving the Democrats the barest majority, a 50-50 Senate chamber. The new vice president, Kamala Harris, will swear them in and serve as an eventual tie-breaking vote.

The Democrats, led by Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, will take charge of the Senate as they launch a trial to hold the defeated president responsible for the siege, while also quickly confirming Biden's Cabinet and being asked to consider passage of a sweeping new \$1.9 trillion COVID-

19 relief bill.

"The inauguration of a new president and the start of a new administration always brings a flurry of activity to our nation's government," Schumer said in remarks on the Senate floor Tuesday morning. "But rarely has so much piled up for the Senate as during this particular transition."

Making the case for Trump's conviction, Schumer said the Senate needs to set a precedent that the "severest offense ever committed by a presi-

severest remedy provided by the Constitution impeachment," and disbarment from future office.

The noeling coming to

dent would be met by the

the Capitol complex after "how truly disturbing it was" to see the attacminee for Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, testified of her own "eerie" fek on the building unfold. Biden's nominee for secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, vowed to get to the bottom of the "horrifying" siege.

The start of the new session of Congress was also forcing lawmakers to come to terms with the post-Trump era, a transfer of power that Trump's mob of supporters tried to prevent after he urged them to storm the Capitol as Congress was tallying the Electoral College vote confirming Biden's election.

Seven Republican senators led by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., tried to overturn Biden's election during the Electoral College tally. Cruz was presiding over the Senate Tuesday while McConnell delivered his blistering remarks.

In this image provided by Sun Literary Arts, Amanda Gorman, 22, poses for a photo on Jan. 14, 2019. The country's next inaugural poet is an old pro at ceremonial occasions — and she's only 22. Amanda Gorman has written for everything from a July 4 celebration featuring the Boston Pops Orchestra to the inauguration at Harvard University for school president Larry Bacon. (Kelia Anne/Sun Literary Arts via AP)

