



North Dallas Gazette

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Dallas formulates a plan to address COVID-19

Mayor Eric Johnson on Wednesday announced the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Assistance and the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Human and Social Recovery and Assistance.

Both of the new committees will recommend strategies to help the City mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and to recover from the effects of the disease's spread.

"As policymakers, we must rise to meet the unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19's spread," said Mayor Johnson. "These committees will enable the Dallas City Council to consider concrete steps that will help mitigate any negative effects of our painful but necessary emergency measures on our economy and our society. Additionally, our City Councilmembers will work through these committees to start preparing now for Dallas' recovery."

Each committee will have seven members and two co-chairs.

City Councilmembers Paula Blackmon and Casey Thomas will co-chair the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Assistance. The committee's members are City Councilmembers Tennell Atkins, Adam Bazaldua, Lee Kleinman, Chad West, and Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano.



Like all major American cities, Dallas is having to decide on special steps to deal with a growing global health crisis. (Photo: Kent Wang / Wikimedia)

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam McGough and City Councilmember Cara Mendelsohn will co-chair the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Human and Social Recovery and Assistance. The committee's members are City Councilmembers Carolyn King Arnold, David Blewett, Jennifer Staubach Gates, Omar Narvaez, and Jaime Resendez.

Updated guidelines for social gatherings and businesses

Earlier this week, Mayor Eric Johnson and City Manager T.C. Broadnax issued amended regulations to slow the spread of novel

(new) coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, in the city of Dallas.

"We are taking these actions now because our core responsibility as a government is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our residents," Mayor Johnson stated a press conference announcing these changes.

The amended regulations include:

Restrict community gatherings to no more than 50 people

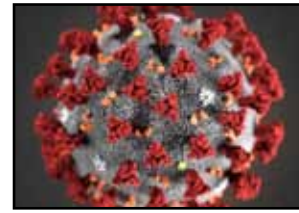
- A prohibition on dine-in services for restaurants
- The closure of bars, lounges

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West: This is not the new normal

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Timely info made available on Coronavirus

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Texas Governor activates National Guard over virus

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Dallas ISD teams up with 2020 Census

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READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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Derrica and Natalie Wilson



Dr. Michelle Clay

People In The News...

NDG Quote of the Week: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

- Bishop Desmond Tutu

Derrica and Natalie Wilson

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Correspondent

The case of Tamika Huston, a 24-year-old black woman who went missing from her Spartanburg, South Carolina, home on May 27, 2004, captivated Derrica Wilson and her sister, Natalie.

Derrica and Natalie noticed how fiercely Huston's aunt, Rebekah Howard, fought to find her.

Howard went to law enforcement, and then she pitched the story to television outlets and shows like "America's Most Wanted," and "Dateline NBC."

She also pleaded with major newspapers like USA Today.

The media, however, focused its attention on the so-called "Runaway Bride" Jennifer Wilbanks, and Laci Peterson, whose husband Scott would eventually be charged and convicted of her murder.

The Wilson sisters noticed what had become the norm for mainstream media when it comes to the plight of missing women and girls of color: there was little to no media coverage.

Because of that, in 2008, Derrica and Natalie started the nonprofit Black and



Missing Foundation with a mission to bring awareness to missing persons of color and to provide vital resources and tools to missing persons' families and friends.

In addition, the foundation's goal is to educate the minority community on personal safety.

"Derrica's hometown is Spartanburg, and we both noticed how Tamika's family struggled to get any media coverage," Natalie Wilson stated. "A little while after Tamika went missing, there was Natalie Holloway, and everyone was saying her name," Wilson said. "Derrica was a law en-

forcement veteran, and I am in media and public relations, so we decided to join forces to try and make a difference. We did some research, and, at the time, we discovered that 30 percent of all people missing were individuals of color," Wilson stated.

"Now, that number has grown to 40 percent."

Of the approximately 600,000 individuals currently reported missing in the United States, more than 200,000 are women of color, Wilson said.

According to the FBI, approximately 64,000 black women and girls are missing, despite that specific demographic accounting for

approximately 7 percent of the U.S. population.

Because of the efforts of the Wilson sisters over the past 12 years, the Black and Missing Foundation has helped to find or bring closure to more than 300 cases of missing persons of color.

"We have made some inroads," Natalie Wilson stated. "When we first started, we saw that our community thought that sex trafficking and missing person cases only happened abroad. But people began to realize that it was happening in our community, so with awareness, people in the community have become more

See WILSON, Page 16

Dr. Michelle Clay

New Orleans, LA (BlackNews.com) -- A year ago, Dr. Michelle Clay won a pitch contest that springboarded the launch of a new stress-care product, a stress release kit. The FREELIFE Stress Release Kit gives the go-to and go-getting woman - the Super Wonder Woman, permission to take a moment for herself and release stress and burn out. It provides the tools needed to create a getaway moment and calm in the midst of chaos.

Dr. Michelle launched the Stress Release Kit which contains simple and



natural elements such as all-natural herbal teas and aromatherapy products that can be used as tools for tranquility to release stress simply and naturally. Her new line of stress-care products are available in The Stress

FREELIFE Store.

With a mix of inspiration, motivation, and relaxation, Dr. Michelle is known as the go-to person for stress release and mindset. Her video series mixes these elements to educate on ways to release, relax, and recharge. Catch her every Monday on her LIVE Facebook show, "Mindset Monday with Dr. Michelle."

"Finding a place of calm in the midst of chaos that comes with an over-extended and stressful life is very important. There was a time in my life when the stress from family, work, and finances was almost unbearable. Once I started

incorporating natural remedies to help alleviate some of the tension I was feeling in my body and mind, the stress started to melt away. My mindset shifted and I felt I could truly live the FREELIFE I envisioned," says Dr. Michelle. Now she helps other women who experience feelings of overwhelm and stress do the same thing and transform chaos to calm, confidence and clarity. Visit www.DrMichelleClay.com to subscribe to her newsletter and receive her Stress-FREE Smoothie recipe.

Dr. Michelle Clay is a physician, certified holistic health counselor, clinical

nutritionist, mindset maven, stress-release strategist, and the founder of FREELIFE7. FREELIFE7 is a life-enhancing company that helps women who are feeling stressed and stuck in overwhelming life circumstances, release their stress simply and naturally through wellness coaching programs all-natural stress-care products, and online courses to create a stunning and harmonious FREELIFE.

Through her company FREELIFE7, Dr. Michelle helps burned out and busy women create happiness, health, and harmony to live a FREE life on purpose with

passion. In addition, Dr. Michelle is a best-selling author of Conquering the Chaos: The Super Wonder Woman's 12-Step Strategy for a Stress FREELIFE.

The book goes through each of the body's systems and illustrates the negative impact that extreme stress can have on them. Solutions and affirmations are provided that cater to each of these systems to help combat stress. She is frequently called upon to give a refreshing and holistic perspective on ways to release stress, recharge health and shift mindset for wellness success.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Black Card 101: Understand the Power of "Taking a Knee" during the Coronavirus Climate

Well Said!

- Marie Lemelle

Bishop T. D. Jakes offers words of comfort as the nation faces the coronavirus

Thank u, when i went to the LORD n Prayer about my fears regarding the coronavirus i heard him say GOD is n control, that's what i believe so now all i have to do is wait

on him ,GOD is n control and will work it out for us all.

- Lilly Hines

God's word is true I am replying on God's word not man's word

- Patricia

Amen! Yes god is n control faith n

- Lisa Robinson

Beloved Pastor, CW Wallace Announces Retirement as Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

God bless a historical

marker from God above!
- Gaye Borders-Crosby

West calls for paid sick leave to protect minorities from income loss as coronavirus spreads

I am a WHITE SINGLE MOTHER and my son became ill with a ruptured appendix surgery and had severe complications with internal bleeding. I had to stay at the hospital with him. I was out of work driving for Uber for ALMOST 2 months. It is March and I can't pay my rent so I am being evicted with a sick child.

NO ONE TO HELP ME IN RICHARDSON TEXAS!!! St. Vincent de Paul gave us 200.00 for rent. My rent is 1556.00. Plus water and now late fees. I am now sick and we have no living family members to help us. No friends can. I am devastated!!! Can ANYONE HELP US PLEASE!!! MY NUMBER IS 972-877-0402. We live in the Block 24 Apartments in Richardson Texas. PLEASE SOMEONE help us!!! Please!!!

-Jacquelyn Gaidar

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West reminds Texans this is not the new normal

By Sen. Royce West

As a State Senator, I was on the front lines of the battle against HIV/AIDS in the Dallas area and across Texas in the 1990s, and involved in Dallas County's battle against the Ebola virus epidemic in 2014.

Tonight, we are faced with a much greater problem as we join together to fight the Coronavirus disease.

I know this is not only a frightening time for all Texans but for all Americans. Texans have not been faced with an epidemiological crisis of such vast proportions since the Polio epidemic's peak in 1952-1953.

However, we must supplant fear with knowledge, and replace misinformation with facts and sound science.

We must understand that this is not the new normal for our country.

Yes, our nation is beginning to see some signs of economic and social disruption. American institutions across all walks of life are being impacted. American institutions from schools, to churches, synagogues, and mosques are suspending regular activities or rapidly changing the way they function in response to this deadly disease. The way we interact in our daily lives is changing at a rapid pace.

We are no longer gathering to celebrate at sporting events, conferences, special occasions, community meetings, rallies, or in public places.

Our greatest concern, and our greatest point of action as a government and a nation during this difficult time must be the least among us. We are our brother's keeper.

This is not the new normal for Texas, or for America. Like we have done many times as a country, we will emerge from this crisis stronger, and with a greater understanding of the needs of our fellow countrymen.

As Texans and as Americans, as have been shown

by World War II, 9/11, and other national emergencies, we are doers. We—the people and the government—will not sit idly by. As leaders, we must step up and make sure the health and safety of every American is paramount as we navigate our way through this crisis.

We will care for our fellow man during this trying time. We will emerge from this crisis, and we will do it together.

Our country will soon return to normal and be stronger, and better prepared to face the future.

I urge you to lift up our fellow Texans, because Texas is a better place when we rise together.

Stand up and be counted – Make Black count – Be powerful

By Roger Caldwell
NPA Contributor

Last week, National Urban League (NUL) President and CEO Marc Morial spent the day in Central Florida to discuss and emphasize the importance of the 2020 census.

Morial, who has led the National Urban League since 2003, is at the helm of the country's oldest civil rights and urban advocacy organization, which through 90 affiliates serving 300 communities empowers more than two million people annually.

With the 2020 census already beginning to reach homes in the United States, Morial joined Central Florida Urban League President and CEO Glenton Gilzean Jr. to host a series of events meant to help remove any and all obstacles that threaten an accurate count in the Black community.

Census challenges include closing the digital divide for rural and poor Black communities and ensuring an accurate count of

young Black/Brown children, Black/Brown men, foster children, newborns (0-4), all immigrants and all extended family members.

Morial noted that individuals can be counted online, via the phone, through mail or if none of those options are available to them, through a visit to their home by a census taker.

Local outreach efforts began with a roundtable with elected officials. Organized by the Central Florida Urban League and hosted by Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, more than two dozen local leaders came together to discuss ways to improve messaging and ensure an accurate count.

"Don't underestimate the power of the local news. Keeping this message in front of the people, with radio and the newspapers, works. The challenge for mayors and legislatures is to keep this going until the end of July," emphasized Morial.

Adding to the discussion

was Mayor Demings, who spoke about exceeding the 70 percent goal that the census has established as a measure for success. The mayor has also scheduled meetings with ministers and different community organizations to emphasize their participation.

"The census is a once-in-a-decade national civic engagement activity, and it requires that everyone is counted, said Glenton Gilzean Jr. "Our founders embedded the census into the Constitution for a reason."

While reaching local elected officials was important, that evening, the CFUL and Spectrum jointly held a townhall with Morial, enabling this message to reach homes across Central Florida. The public event, which will be aired on My News 13 and Bay News 9 in the coming weeks, emphasized how a census undercount would hurt Black communities.

In 2010, the State of Florida was ranked third in the country in unresponsiveness. This led to an

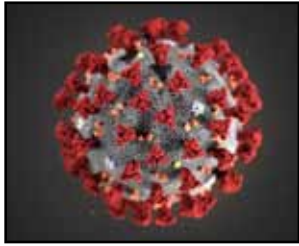
estimated 71,000 children who were not counted and an underfunding of \$67 million annually. Locally, nearly 7,000 children are on the waiting list for early childhood education due to the 2010 undercount and lack of subsequent resources.

"Open your voice at work. Open your voice in community organizations. Open your voice with the social media. Accurate counting determines money and power, and the leadership must ensure we get an accurate count," added Morial. "Our leaders must take charge of the conversation in our community and shape our future. The town hall meeting was excellent, and it created awareness and education for everyone who attended."

"I encourage everyone to watch this town hall when it airs locally to ensure they are not dissuaded by misinformation, and to realize how critical the upcoming count is. Remember: everybody counts," said Glenton Gilzean Jr.

Molina Healthcare of Texas waives COVID-19 testing costs for members

Last week, Molina Healthcare (“Molina”) announced it would waive member costs associated with testing for the coronavirus, which causes COVID-19. This waiver applies to the test for coronavirus and the office visit – including physician office, urgent care, or emergency depart-



ment – associated with that test. Details of the coverage policy have been shared

with our provider network teams.

“We are closely monitoring developments concerning potential coronavirus cases in Texas and will ensure that member tests and treatments occur as quickly as possible,” said Anne Rote, plan president, Molina Healthcare of Texas.

“The health and well-being of Molina members, employees, providers, and partners is our highest priority, and I am confident that we have the proper process in place to effectively respond to potential community spread.”

The leadership team at

Molina Healthcare of Texas is working closely with its executive task force, along with the following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services, to evaluate and communicate information to members, network

providers, employees, and government partners as the situation evolves.

Additionally, Molina has shared its COVID-19 Medical Policy and a Q&A document with its provider community to ensure alignment in caring for members during this time.

Texas A&M College of Dentistry providing emergency dental care only through March 27 in light of national emergency

Texas A&M College of Dentistry is following updated CDC guidelines for minimizing the risks of COVID-19 transmission to protect our patients, students, faculty,

staff and the wider community.

The college is currently open for emergency care only through Friday, March 27. Patients with previously sched-

uled non-emergency appointments will be rescheduled for a later date. Patients currently in treatment at the college should call their treating department for emergency care.

If you are experiencing severe pain or swelling and seeking emergency tooth extraction, call 214-828-8489 to schedule an appointment.

All patients seeking emer-

gency treatment must enter the Clinic and Education Building through the first floor, where they will be screened and have their temperatures taken. An appoint-

ment is mandatory.

Unless the patient is a minor or requires translation assistance, no other family members will be allowed in the building.

How quickly can patients recover from COVID-19?

(Futurity) Researchers have mapped immune responses from one of Australia’s first COVID-19 patients, showing the body’s ability to fight the virus and the timing of recovery from the infection.

Researchers were able to test blood samples at four different time points in an otherwise healthy woman in her 40s, who presented with COVID-19 and had mild-to-moderate symptoms requiring hospital admission.

“We looked at the whole breadth of the immune response in this patient using the knowledge we have built over many years of looking at immune responses in patients hospitalized with influenza,” says Nguyen.

“Three days after the patient was admitted, we saw large populations of several immune cells, which are often a tell-tale sign of recovery during seasonal influenza infection, so we predicted that the patient would

recover in three days, which is what happened,” Oanh Nguyen, a research fellow at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute).

Reportedly, current estimates show more than

80 percent of COVID-19 cases are mild-to-moderate, and understanding the immune response in these mild cases is very important to research.

Source: University of Melbourne

Metrocare ready to provide telehealth to thousands in Dallas

Metrocare, the largest provider of mental and behavioral healthcare in North Texas, applauded new guidance issued over the weekend by the Texas Medical Board (TMB). After Governor Greg Abbott’s state disaster declaration Friday, TMB instituted new protocols that allow licensed Texas physicians and permit holders to provide telephone consultation or telehealth to their patients. TMB made the decision so patients can re-

ceive or maintain medical care during the current novel COVID-19 threat. The guidelines allow enhanced utilization of telehealth for diagnosis, treatment, ordering of tests and prescribing for all conditions.

“This is an important decision,” said John W. Burruss, CEO of Metrocare, “because right now, patients need therapy and assistance more than ever. We began preparing for this change two weeks ago. In my mind, this could be a life-saving

regulatory decision, and TMB moved quickly and decisively on the issue.”

Metrocare provides an array of mental health and developmental disability services for Dallas County residents, serving over 18,000 people every month. In addition to providing for the uninsured, Metrocare is one of the few mental and behavioral health providers that offers services to Medicaid patients and those who are underinsured.

Dr. Burruss reported an

unusual spike Monday at Metrocare’s clinics in Dallas County.

“All of us are making monumental changes in our daily lives,” said Burruss. “Imagine, however, managing this stress while also battling depression or an anxiety disorder. Some of our clients may have two jobs, but immediately have to find assistance for children who may be at home for weeks to come. In fact, they may have jobs with questionable futures

because of the financial effects of the virus. Clearly, people all over Dallas are facing individual crises.”

Metrocare’s clinics will remain open, but some may change operating hours and staffing levels as the clinicians work remotely to

provide telehealth services. Providers will also continue limited home visits in some situations, such as patients with special needs. Metrocare will also provide prescription refills via telephone interviews or counseling sessions.

Patients on ACE-i and ARBs who contract COVID-19 should continue treatment unless otherwise advised

As the global impact of COVID-19 rises, the scientific community continues to evaluate the clinical impact and health care needs of patients with cardiovascular disease, who are at increased risk for serious complications with COVID-19.

Together, the American Heart Association (AHA), the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) and the

American College of Cardiology (ACC) recommend continuation of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE-i) or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) medications for all patients already prescribed for indications such as heart failure, hypertension or ischemic heart disease.

Cardiovascular disease patients who are diagnosed

with COVID-19 should be fully evaluated before adding or removing any treatments, and any changes to their treatment should be based on the latest scientific evidence and shared-decision making with their physician and health care team.

“While the primary symptoms of COVID-19 include respiratory symptoms, the latest evidence demonstrates

some patients with COVID-19 may also have severe cardiovascular damage. We must ensure we fully evaluate and treat patients with cardiovascular disease,” continued Biykem Bozkurt, M.D., Ph.D., HFSA president, professor of cardiology, the Mary and Gordon Cain Chair of Medicine in the Winters Center for Heart Failure Research.

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Governor Abbott activates National Guard in response to ongoing COVID-19 situation

AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott on March 17 activated the Texas National Guard to be prepared to assist with response efforts for COVID-19. This preparative measure will ensure that the Texas National Guard can assist in various

forms throughout the state when needed.

“By activating the Texas National Guard, we are ensuring Texas is prepared as we continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19,” said Governor Abbott. “I am grateful to the men and

women of the National Guard for their dedication to serving their fellow Texans, and want to assure the public that this is a precautionary measure to make sure the Texas National Guard has the capability to serve at a moment’s notice where

they are needed most.”

Healthcare workers and first responders who are members of the Texas National Guard are excluded from this activation so that they can continue serving the people of Texas in their respective fields.



The governor has announced the Texas National Guard will be used to help during the COVID-19 scare. (Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle, 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

Dallas Municipal Court rescheduling trials and jury duty

In response to the effort of trying to help reduce the spread coronavirus (COVID-19), the City of Dallas Municipal Court, located at 2014 Main Street, is rescheduling all cases set for

trial from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, April 3, 2020 to a later date. Persons with scheduled trial or jury appearances will be notified by mail with a new trial or jury date. If

you do not receive a new trial or jury date, please call courts at 214-670-0109 or visit courts.dallascityhall.com.

All other hearings (pre-trial hearings, contested

hearings, show cause hearings, etc.) and walk-in courts will continue as normal. The City of Dallas Municipal Court will continue to operate during its regular business hours.

Staff is available to assist attorneys and defendants with clerical functions such as filings, answering questions, taking payments, records, setting up payment plans, etc.

Defendants seeking to resolve their citation(s) without coming downtown, can do so online at courts.dallascityhall.com, by mail or by phone by calling 214-670-0109 or 3-1-1.

The City of Garland announces facilities closures

The City of Garland is closing various facilities to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The following City facilities will be closed as of Tuesday, March 16 through Saturday, May 9, 2020, in accordance with the latest guidance from the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Duckworth Utility Services Building (217 N. Fifth Street) (Utility and Tax payments will be accepted via the drive-through payment center at 717 W. State St., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Other utility payment options at Garlan-

dUtilities.org. Online tax payment information is on the City Tax Department web page.)

- All Municipal Court dockets are canceled
- All-City recreation centers are closed
- The Granville Arts Center, which includes the Atri-

um and the Plaza Theatre

- The Garland Tennis Center, athletic fields and outdoor venues (While parks and green spaces are not closed, playground equipment, picnic tables, and other equipment are not being sanitized.)
- Firewheel Golf Park

- All libraries (Online and downloadable materials, wifi are still available. Overdue fines will be waived.)

- City-hosted special events; other events requiring City assistance

The dates of these closures are consistent with

the most recent guidance from the CDC that calls for the cancellation or postponement of in-person events that consist of 10 people or more for the next 8 weeks. Disease prevention guidance also calls for social-distancing of about six feet.

Irving announces Parks and Rec closures, cancellations

Dallas County has declared a disaster for public health. As a result, the City of Irving is taking action regarding specific city-sponsored events and activities with 50 or greater participants, as well as other high-risk activities and areas. In addition, the county emphasizes the importance to maintain a social distance of 6 feet.

RECREATION

CENTERS

- Heritage Senior Center is closed and all associated activities/events are canceled.
- All-City of Irving fitness facilities are closed.
- Mustang Park, Cimarron Park and Lively Pointe Youth Center recreation centers are closed.
- Lee Park, Georgia Farrow, Northwest and Senter Park recreation centers will continue to provide Spring

Break Camp but will be closed to the public.

AQUATICS

North Lake Natatorium and Heritage Aquatic Center are closed.

PARKS AND TRAILS

- The Lively Park Skate Park is closed.
- All athletic fields for practices, league play, and tournaments are closed.
- A number of parks and sections of Campion Trail

are currently closed due to flooding.

OTHER CITY EVENTS

- The March 27 Document Shredding and Electronics Recycling event is canceled.
- Keep Irving Beautiful’s Don’t Mess with Texas/Great American Cleanup on April 4 at Trinity Park is canceled.
- The April 17 Night Hike on Campion Trail is canceled.

- Bike Fest, scheduled for April 18, is canceled.

CITY HALL

- City Hall will remain open to the public.
- The public can still attend City Council and Work Session meetings. A maxi-

mum of 50 attendees will be allowed into Council Chambers.

- City Council and Work Session meetings, as well as Planning and Zoning meetings, will be broadcast live via ICTN.tv.

Using tech tools to stay in touch with neighbors and family during COVID-19

We’re all adjusting to this new normal of staying home and social distancing. And if you’re like me, you’ve got more downtime to use technology for things like streaming TV shows or connecting with loved ones.

Perhaps during this time of COVID-19, you might spend a few minutes evaluating how you can use

technology to keep your neighborhood safe. Here are five tips for how you can use technology to keep your community as safe as possible.

1. Visit the CDC website, and follow their guidelines to protect yourself.

2. Use video technology like Zoom, Google Hangouts, and FaceTime to connect with cowork-

ers, family, and even your neighborhood / HOA. If you’ve postponed your regular HOA meeting.

3. If there’s a criminal incident, research to see if there are means to report it to your police via email or online submission. Most police departments are looking for ways to limit in-person interaction while they continue serv-

ing the community. Gather as many details as you can, then visit their website and report the incident.

4. Let’s be kind to each other. And let’s help each other. If you are healthy, do your part to keep the community safe. Check out charity websites and consider hosting a virtual fundraiser to feed struggling families.



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Dallas ISD to help families participate in the 2020 Census



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

This month, homes across North Texas will receive invitations in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau to participate in the 2020 Census, a count of all the individuals living in the U.S. The questionnaire will ask the head of household if the home is owned or rented, how many people are living at the address, and their names, sex, birthdates, fam-

ily relationships and race.

Respondents will not be asked about citizenship status, and by law, all census information is kept private. Residents can respond to the census online, by phone or by mail. The census is important because the data is used to allocate federal dollars for schools, housing aid, transportation, health programs, services to the homeless, food programs, and more. Census data is also used to draw voting districts, which translate to seats in the U.S. Congress.

To help families respond to the census, all Dallas

ISD schools will make a computer available to parents to submit their census information. And during the week of March 23-27, more than 100 Dallas ISD schools are hosting Census Nights to make computers available and to share census information. In May, census takers will begin visiting homes that have not responded to the questionnaire. To learn more, visit the Census Bureau FAQs page at <https://2020census.gov/en/help.html>.

Kimball High School Construction Underway
Kimball High School is

undergoing a \$16.2 million makeover, expected to be completed in the spring of 2021. The work will include additions to the administrative area, a classroom addition (storm shelter), small athletics and kitchen additions, major athletic renovations, minor interior and exterior renovations, and site improvements including courtyards and parking lots.

Kudos to Kimball, Carter Boys' Basketball Teams

Congratulations to the Kimball High Knights for making it to the 5A Region II finals and for finishing the season with an overall

23-8 record. Thanks, Coach Nicholas Smith! A big shout-out also to Coach Lyndon Love and the Carter High Cowboys for going as far as the 4A Region II semifinals and earning a 29-8 record for the season. You all rock!

Come Out to a Community Budget and Bond Meeting

Superintendent Hinojosa will be holding community meetings focused on the district's 2020 budget as well as proposed plans to improve district schools and facilities. Five meetings are planned at schools in communities across the city for

your convenience. Have your questions and suggestions ready for the superintendent to address. Here are the meetings:

Moises Molina High School, Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – 6 p.m.

Wilmer-Hutchins High School, Tuesday, March 31, 2020 – 6 p.m.

Hillcrest High School, Thursday, April 2, 2020 – 6 p.m.

David W. Carter High School, Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – 6 p.m.

Skyline High School, Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – 6 p.m.

PepsiCo and Frito-Lay partnership with Dallas ISD P-Tech valued

As an industry partner with the South Oak Cliff High School P-TECH, PepsiCo and Frito-Lay are showing students great potential opportunities available to them after high school. PepsiCo and Frito-Lay have developed and implemented programming with the SOC P-TECH that covers careers, college, communication, leadership, collaboration, time management, public speaking, resumes and interviewing. PepsiCo and Frito-Lay have hosted college and career fairs where more than 150 associates mentored 300 students by sharing their college experiences.

Also, PepsiCo and Frito-



PepsiCo and Frito-Lay representatives talk with SOC students about possible future opportunities at the school's career day. (Photo: Dallas ISD)

Lay launched a mentorship program that has 20 mentors/mentees and hosted three summer interns as part of the Dallas Mayor's Intern Fellows Program. PepsiCo and Frito-Lay provide SOC with a Food for Good

monthly donation of nutritional food and snacks for the 60 known homeless students who attend the school.

"At our Frito-Lay, Gatorade and Pepsi businesses, we have 1,500 full-time positions within a 20-mile

drive of South Oak Cliff High School," said Kathy Alfano, a senior director of economic development at PepsiCo. "Our goal is to build opportunities through our work in Southern Dallas and P-TECH that will create ongoing future growth for our city – including the potential for these students to pursue jobs at PepsiCo."

Meanwhile, SOC Assistant Principal Victoria Davis said PepsiCo and Frito-Lay are having a tremendous positive impact on the students.

"The partnership with PepsiCo and Frito-Lay have helped create a climate of career readiness that prepares the students for their

future," Davis said. "Their constant presence at SOC P-TECH enables the students to build a solid foundation of preparedness for the professional world, which brings timeless experiences such as mentorships, career/college fairs, site visits, and internships."

P-TECH, which stands for Pathways in Technology Early College High School, is a global education model consisting of a partnership between a school, higher-education institution, and industry partner. High school students enrolled in a P-TECH can earn an associate degree or up to 60 hours of tuition-free college credit. Dallas ISD is home

to 18 P-TECHs.

In addition, students enrolled in a P-TECH develop skills in a specific academic pathway through mentorships and internships with industry partners. This enables students to enter the job market with work-ready skills.

"Dallas ISD has put together a transformative educational program for high school students with the P-TECH program, as it encourages students to pursue associate degrees while completing high school and obtain mentoring and job experiences directly from corporate partners like PepsiCo and Frito-Lay," Alfano said.

DCCCD extends spring break one week, prepares for shift to online operations

In light of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) concerns and for the safety of our students, faculty, and staff, the seven colleges of Dallas County Community College District will extend spring break for students by one week, through March 29. The decision came during an emergency virtual

board of trustees meeting earlier this morning.

The move will provide critical time for the District to shift to online and remote operations. Classes will resume on March 30 in an online-only format, which will last through at least the end of April. Limited on-campus operations will also

resume on March 30 to support students.

"Because every decision we make has a far-reaching impact on our students, we are taking steps to minimize their health risk, while still maximizing our students' opportunity to complete a college degree/credential," said DCCCD Chancellor

Dr. Joe May.

"This is an unprecedented moment in the history of not only DCCCD but for Dallas County, our country and beyond," said Board Chair Diana Flores. "I stand behind our decision to extend spring break amid a change to online learning, keeping the health and safety of our

students, faculty, and staff at the forefront. We believe this is the best course of action as we continue to offer top-tier instruction, for now, in a virtual format."

It is important to note, there are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the DCCCD community. The District is taking these pro-

active steps to mitigate the spread of the virus. DCCCD is in daily contact with Dallas County Health and Human Services to monitor any local transmission of the disease and urges all within the DCCCD community to follow health and safety procedures to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.

Tips for students told to study from home amid COVID-19 fears

Partner Post

Many people today will never have seen anything like the widespread panic that has gripped the world,

with many countries going into lockdown and thousands losing their lives. The pandemic known as Covid-19 is affected by people all around the globe, and

people have had to make stark changes to their lives, with restrictions placed on things that most of us took for granted.

The travel sector, the fi-

nancial sector, and the education sector are just a few of the industries that have been thrown into turmoil because of Covid-19, which is spreading at an alarming

pace. In order to ensure that students can study in safety, many colleges in the United States and beyond have now closed their doors to in-person classes, expected

students to study at home instead to minimize the risk of infection. However, this is not an easy task for all

See STUDY, Page 11



If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services.

Respond online, by phone, or by mail.

Complete the census at:

2020CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

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Dallas

All March **Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program** pro bono clinics are canceled for the month. Dallas area residents can contact the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program for legal assistance at <https://buff.ly/2TISiNP>.

The **Dallas Institute** is suspending all programs until April 15, aiming to postpone rather than cancel wherever possible, and will be updating the website, dallasinstitute.org, with these details. We will continue to monitor the situation with an eye toward extending that period of suspension if advisable.

Garland

The Garland Health De-



Benedikt Geyer / Unsplash

partment (GHD) received a report of a laboratory **confirmed human case of the novel coronavirus** (COVID-19) in a Garland resident in their 30s. Initial information suggests that this case is not travel related. This is the first confirmed COVID-19 case reported in Garland. The infected individual has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home under a 14-day quarantine order.

The **Garland Senior Activity Center and the Carver Senior Center** will

be closed until April 15. The City will work with Meals on Wheels to distribute approximately 100 meals per day to senior citizens who usually receive these meals at the centers. All nonessential Boards and Commissions meetings, as well as City Council Committee meetings, are suspended until further notice.

Irving

The entire **Irving Arts Center** facility and Irving Archives and Museum will be completely closed to the public through Sunday, April 5. The administrative offices will remain open at Irving Arts Center and Irving Archives & Museum with limited public access pending CDC and government guidance to the con-

trary.

McKinney

Advisory board meetings are canceled until further notice. Meetings for the McKinney Economic Development Corporation, McKinney Community Development Corporation, Visit McKinney and the McKinney Housing Finance Corporation will be held at the discretion of the board chairperson.

City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings will continue as scheduled, but residents are encouraged to consider viewing these meetings online in lieu of personal attendance. Residents can submit comments to the City Council via email, phone or in writing. Details

are on the City of McKinney website.

Plano

To help contain the spread of the Coronavirus or COVID-19 within the community, all **Plano Public Library facilities are closed** until March 27, at which time the closure will be reassessed.

Collin College will extend this week's Spring Break to another week - with plans to recommence on Monday, March 23.

The Collin County Health Department said a 56-year-old man in Plano is the **seventh presumptive positive case** of novel coronavirus COVID-19 in Collin County. The man

has no underlying health conditions and is quarantined in his home.

The City is posting regular updates on the City's dedicated COVID-19 website: share.plano.gov/COVID-19update. This page includes a running list of the frequently asked questions, which is revised as new questions and answers are provided.

Richardson

UT Dallas will extend its March 16 - 20 Spring Break another full week, where classes will resume only as online instruction effective March 30th. Campus and campus living will remain open, and the University will maintain normal business operations. Campus events will be limited.

Minnie's Food Pantry sees an increase in demand due to the coronavirus

In the immediate weeks following the outbreak of the coronavirus here in North Texas, Minnie's Food Pantry (MFP) has witnessed first-hand the severity of the virus and the detrimental impact it has on local communities, even those individuals who may have not come in contact with the disease directly. From hours and wages being decreased to small businesses experiencing less and less

clientele, school closures, and stores running out of basic necessities and vital food components, the need for supplemental assistance is more vital now than ever.

As schools are extending spring breaks, events are being canceled across North Texas, and in an effort to partake in social distancing in hopes of flattening the curve caused by COVID-19, many North Texans have begun to feel the eco-

nomical effects of this life-threatening disease and in order to ease the blow and further assist those in need, Minnie's Food Pantry plans on remaining open in times such as this.

Typically serving an average of 5,000 individuals per calendar month, Minnie's Food Pantry is now seeing a 20% increase in clientele. The number of clients is naturally on the rise as they always see a surge dur-

ing times when schools are closed, however with the extended school closures, many people out of work, combined with the fact that many items are not accessible in local stores, they anticipate a higher number of families served than usual.

Donations are dwindling as stores don't have a surplus to provide as they did before. Additionally, the majority of food drives were hosted by corpora-

tions and service groups who are no longer gathering, also in support of social distancing and healthy safety efforts. Their shelves are going bare. With no food drives and minimal donations combined with an increase in families served, the outgoing far exceeds the incoming.

It is the immediate plan of Minnie's Food Pantry to remain open to further assist those who are strug-

gling and those who are now looking for a place to receive help after being affected by the unforeseen aftermath of times such as this. But that can only be so as long as shelves remain full.

Therefore, they are asking the community to donate online or texting the word MINNIES to 41444. They stated every dollar covers the cost of three meals.

Federal Trade Commission settles pain relief device case for \$4 million

By Seena Gressin
Attorney, Division of
Consumer & Business
Education, FTC

If you live with chronic and severe pain, over-the-counter devices that promise powerful, drug-free relief can be tempting, even if they're costly. But, before you invest in products that promise life-

changing results, read about the FTC's \$4 million settlement with the marketers of a device known as Quell.

Quell is a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) device. TENS devices use electrodes to deliver low-voltage electrical currents through the skin and may relieve minor pain at the site where they're applied.

According to the FTC, Quell's ads claimed it could do much more. The ads said that Quell — when worn as directed, on the upper calf, just below the knee — caused the release of "natural pain blockers," resulting in pain relief throughout the body from serious conditions like osteoarthritis, nerve damage, sciatica, shin-

gles, and fibromyalgia.

The problem, according to the FTC: NeuroMetrix, Inc., the company behind Quell, and company founder and CEO Shai Gozani, didn't have scientific evidence to back up their pain relief claims. The FTC says the defendants added to the deception by claiming that Quell was "clinically proven" to

deliver widespread chronic pain relief and "cleared" by the FDA for that purpose. Those claims, the FTC says, were flat-out false.

The result, according to the FTC: people shelled out up to \$299 for Quell devices, plus \$30 for a one-month supply of replacement electrodes.

Under the settlement, the

defendants must pay the Commission \$4 million, which will be returned to Quell customers. The settlement also bars the defendants from claiming that Quell or any other device can relieve chronic or severe pain throughout the body — or has any other health benefit — unless they have scientific proof.

← VIRUS, from Page 1

es, taverns, private clubs, gyms, health studios, theaters, and commercial amusement facilities

"Your city government is taking the steps it deems necessary to flatten the curve of this global pandemic and save lives," Johnson stated. "And we are going to get through this

because the people of Dallas are strong."

The regulations were created in accordance with Mayor Johnson's disaster declaration, which was authorized by the Texas Local Government Code, Section 418, and Section 14B of the Dallas City Code. The rules, which have the effect

of ordinances during the duration of the declaration, are meant to protect life and property and preserve critical resources while a state of disaster is in effect.

Parks close playgrounds, golf courses, tennis centers

Out of an abundance of caution and to maintain social distancing, Dallas Park and Recreation are closing

playgrounds, golf courses, and tennis centers until further notice. While the use of playground equipment is restricted, open-air use of parks and trails will remain open.

Dallas Park and Recreation Centers were closed and all department organized programs were suspended including any athletic field reservations and

organized play.

The water is safe to drink

Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) would like to remind residents and customers Dallas tap water is safe to drink. Conventional water treatment methods, including filtration and disinfection, are used at all of DWU's drinking water treatment plants. These processes remove or inac-

tivate bacteria and viruses.

COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water. DWU continues to test and monitor our drinking water supplies 24/7 to ensure the highest quality water for our customers.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the City's web page, <https://www.dallascityhall.com/coronavirus>.

Dallas restaurants offering specials, curbside service and more during COVID-19 dine-in closures

Dallas restaurants are being creative in finding ways to survive COVID-19 related closures for dine-in. Many are staying open and encouraging diners to support their employees by placing orders for curbside, in-store pick-up or delivery. A few are sweetening the offer with discounts and gift cards for future dine-in visits.

Curbside Services

Bob's Steak and Chop House on Lemmon Avenue will be offering curbside and delivery services for all to-go and pickup orders. Bob's will deliver in a 5-mile radius and require a minimum two-entree order for delivery. To place your order, call Bob's Steak & Chop House Lemmon Avenue at 214-528-9446.

Fireside Pies is offering curbside services for all to-go and pickup orders. Call your Fireside Pies location upon arrival to provide the make and model of your car as well as the name the order is under.

During this difficult time,

National Museum of African American Music announces Grand Opening date

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (March 3, 2020) – After more than 20 years in development, the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) is ready to open its doors to music lovers of all ages. The 56,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Nashville will officially open to guests on Thursday, September 3, 2020 kicking off a Labor Day weekend packed with grand opening events that will help introduce NMAAM to Nashville and the world. Advance tickets can now be purchased from the NMAAM website with



Several restaurants at Trinity Groves has launched curbside service in light of dine-in restrictions. (Courtesy photo)

Lawry's The Prime Rib in Addison is offering 15% off delivery and 20% off curbside pick-up to ensure customers have options to eat at home

Perry's Steakhouse & Grille will be offering curbside services for all to-go and pickup orders.

Shell Shack Plano, Arlington, Denton, and Tyler are still open but Dallas and Mesquite are closed for dining but offering delivery and curbside pickup.

Several restaurants at **Trinity Groves** launched curbside service or delivery via Postmates. In fact, you do not even have to go without your favorites slice

of cake from **The Cake Bar** or **Kate's chocolate** choices!

AvoEatery – 469-436-7231

Sushi Bayashi – 972-684-5906

The Hall Bar & Grill – 214-308-6720

Beto & Son – 469-249-8590

V-Eats Modern Vegan – 214-377-6009

Saint Rocco's – 469-320-9707

Cake Bar – 972-684-5801

Kate Weiser Chocolate – 469-619-4929

Pick-up Offers

Corner Bakery Cafe will take 30% off online and takeout orders. To get the discount, guests can use the offer code 590 when ordering online, mention the offer for call ahead orders or show a coupon on their phone through **Corner Bakery's eClub**.

One90's full menu is available for pickup, including fresh, made-to-order sandwiches and packaged meat and fish. And they've got your butt covered by offering a roll of FREE toilet paper with each order placed for local pick up is offering 20% off all packaged meats.

Delivery Offers

bellagreen Guests can

get free delivery on all orders over \$20 with code **BELLACARES**.

Bowl & Barrel When ordering carry out, guests will receive a \$15 gift with every entree purchased during this time. The gift card is valid for dine-in only for 30 days after restaurants reopen.

Coolgreens is making it easy for families to eat healthy, even while they're stuck at home. Delivery and take-out orders are available.

Favor is offering \$3 off delivery, use **LOCAL-FAVES** code.

Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom will have free delivery with DoorDash for all first-time users and a 99-cent delivery fee for returning users through March 30.

Original ChopShop

Guests can get free delivery on all orders over \$20 with code **CHOPCARES**.

All first time **Genghis Grill** orders on DoorDash will get free delivery through March 30.

On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina – On food orders of \$15 or more, with a purchase of a Coke product, receive a \$5 discount. Must enter code **OT-BCOKE** on DoorDash to redeem offer. *Valid at participating locations only.

UP Inspired Kitchen through April 30 is offering \$5 off delivery orders of \$15 or more with code **LIVEUP** when they order through the **UP Inspired Kitchen** app (available on iOS & Android) or online.

Any updates, email editor@northdallasgazette.com.

Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to the the hottest events in Dallas/Fort Worth!!!!

Two local film festivals switch to online viewing due to COVID-19

Thin Line Fest in Denton (ThinLine.us March 25-29) and Dallas VideoFest's Alternative Fiction (VideoFest.org April 3-5) are teaming up to reinvent how a film festival can thrive in this time of viral uncertainty. Instead of postponing the festivals, they are presenting their festivals online by creating live events including a portal for their audiences to have social interaction with participating filmmakers from their homes and inject art into their lives during this imposed isolation.

Thin Line Fest and Dallas VideoFest partnered with Falcon Events (falconevents.com), Dallas-based event producers, which specializes in producing live online and virtual events, to deploy the latest live online technology via a secure and robust platform to create a virtual film festival experience.

"We are recreating the



"Born Into The Gig" is a music-driven documentary that follows five singer-songwriters who hope to carve their own musical identity in the shadow of their parents' iconic greatness. It is one of the feature films which will be part of the online festivals. (Courtesy image)

festival experience, showing films, and connecting filmmakers with their audiences, with technology that is just right for the moment," said Bart Weiss, founder and artistic director of Dallas VideoFest.

Alternative Innovation

Falcon Events has the technology and capability to include film introductions from the Festivals' film

hosts as well as Q&As following films. Viewers will be able to hear and potentially see the filmmakers as they answer the viewers' questions. Falcon Events has very strict protocols in place to ensure each film's content is not copied, and each film will only be available live.

"Despite having to cancel all in-person festival events,

Thin Line Fest is thrilled to continue our tradition of screening the latest and best documentaries from around the world. The response from filmmakers has been overwhelmingly supportive, and we are looking forward to creating a comparable festival experience online," said Joshua Butler, Thin Line Fest founder and direc-

tor and Falcon Events COO.

Dallas VideoFest has been innovating with technology since 1987, such as showcasing HDTV and VR in 1988, exhibiting interactive media, and pioneering using files instead of videotapes.

"In this time when we are literally homebound, we are looking to be inspired. These two festivals (Thin Line's documentaries and AltFiction's narrative films) will prove entertainment, inspiration and will be the cure for cabin fever," said Bart Weiss

During the consecutive extended weekends of the Thin Line Festival and Dallas VideoFest's AltFiction, movie lovers can go online and watch great films at specific times. Like traditional film festivals, there will be questions and answers and intros to the films from hosts and from the filmmakers, but these will be done on video (and unlike the films themselves will be viewable later online). Audiences can ask questions of the filmmakers and have them answered in real-time.

MUSIC, from Page 9

ears and moves your feet. We encourage everyone to start planning their 2020 trips to Nashville and purchase your tickets to this first-of-its-kind institution dedicated to celebrating incredible people and moments in American history."

NMAAM will open to guests on September 3 as the anchor tenant of the Fifth + Broadway development. Fifth + Broadway is one of the largest mixed use developments in the region that includes retail, residential and office space right at the center of downtown Nashville on historic Broadway.

Upon opening, guests who visit the museum will be immersed in generations of musical history created and inspired by the work of African Americans. NMAAM features seven content galleries—six permanent and one rotating—that chronicle Black musical traditions from the 1600s up to the present day. More than 50 genres and

sub-genres of American music are explored from spirituals and gospel, to jazz, blues, hip-hop, R&B and more.

Advance tickets for general admission to the museum are now available online from the museum website, www.nmaam.org. All admission tickets are timed, with tours scheduled every 30 minutes. The first tour group will enter at 9:00 a.m. and the last tour block will be sold at 4:00 p.m. with the museum closing at 5:00 p.m. daily. Guests will be able to select their time slot based upon ticket availability.

General admission ticket prices are as follows: individual/adult ticket (18 years and above) is \$24.95, youth ticket (7-17 years) is \$13.50, senior ticket (65 years and above) is \$18.75, student/educator/military ticket (must show I.D.) is \$18.75 and children's ticket (6 years and below) is free when accompanied by a paid adult. Guests who wish to spend more than

one day in the museum may purchase a multi-day pass for up to three days for \$37.50 at all levels.

Guests can also explore becoming a museum member to receive unlimited entry for a year and access to exclusive content and museum discounts. Memberships start in the range of \$25 to \$50 per individual. For additional information, please visit the Membership section of the website or call 615-488-3310. Please note that listed ticket prices do not include local taxes and fees and prices are subject to change.

Group rates are available for parties of 15 or more people. Anyone interested in tour group pricing should contact groupsales@nmaam.org to coordinate their group's visit.

The full list of grand opening activities for NMAAM and Fifth + Broadway will be released in the upcoming months. Be sure to follow @TheNMAAM across all social media to stay up-to-date on the latest details.




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SBA economic injury loan program

By Letecia McNatt

Please share your story of economic loss from the COVID-19 (coronavirus) with the Small Business Administration as soon as possible.

In order for Texas busi-

nesses to become eligible for emergency, low-interest bridge loans from the SBA to help you pay immediate costs such as your mortgage and payroll, a business from each of Texas' 254 counties needs to show the SBA it has been nega-

tively affected by the COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Here is what you can do to help: please email the Economic Injury Worksheet to: TDEMPAREcovery@tdem.texas.gov

Additional information from the U.S. Small Busi-

ness Administration about Economic Injury Disaster Loans can be found online.

Sending in this form will not financially obligate your business in any way. When the declaration is granted for the SBA emergency loan program, ap-

plicants will receive information on how to apply for their loan.

Sharing your story is the next step in this very long process.

These are unprecedented times for all of us - information, questions, and un-

certainty will continue to remain in our day to day routine on the road ahead. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, and frustrations.

Letecia McNatt, Downtown Development Office, City of Garland.

Checks from the government

By Jennifer Leach

Associate Director

Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

As the Coronavirus takes a growing toll on people's pocketbooks, there are reports that the government will soon be sending money

by check or direct deposit to each of us. The details are still being worked out, but there are a few really important things to know, no matter what this looks like.

1. The government will not ask you to pay anything up front to get this money.

No fees. No charges. No nothing.

2. The government will not call to ask for your Social Security number, bank account, or credit card number. Anyone who does is a scammer.

3. These reports of checks aren't yet a reality.

Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer.

Look, normally we'd wait to know what the payment plan looks like before we put out a message like this. But these aren't normal times. And we predict that the scammers are gear-

ing up to take advantage of this.

So, remember: no matter what this payment winds up being, only scammers will ask you to pay to get it. If you spot one of these scams, please tell the Federal Trade Commission: www.ftc.gov/complaint.

We're doing our best to stop these scammers in their tracks, and your report will help.

Keep up to date with the latest Coronavirus-related scams at www.ftc.gov/coronavirus or by signing up to get these consumer alerts.

NAR survey finds nearly 1 in 4 home sellers changed how their home is viewed on the market due to coronavirus outbreak

WASHINGTON – Nearly 1 in 4 home sellers nationwide are changing how their home is viewed while the home remains on the market due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, according to a new survey from the National Association of Realtors. The changes include stopping open houses, requiring potential buyers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, asking buyers to remove shoes or wear

footies, or other changes.

The percentage of sellers adopting these and other changes climbs to 44 percent and 34 percent, respectively, in Washington State and California, two of the states hardest hit by the coronavirus.

NAR's Economic Pulse Flash Survey – conducted March 9-10, 2020 – asked members questions about how the coronavirus outbreak, including the sig-

nificant declines in stock market values and mortgage interest rates, has impacted home buyer and seller interest and behavior. Several highlights of the member survey include:

- 37% said lower mortgage rates excited home buyers much more than the stock market correction.

- Almost 8 out of 10 (78%) said there has been no change in buyer interest due to the coronavirus.

- 16% said buyer interest has decreased due to coronavirus, with members in California and Washington State citing larger decreases in buyer interest – 21% and

19%, respectively.

- Nearly 9 in 10 members (87%) said coronavirus has not affected the number of homes on the market.

- In Washington State and

California, 5% and 4% of members, respectively, reported homes were removed from the market. That figure is 3% for members nationwide.

STUDY, from Page 6

students, so this article will provide some tips to help.

Easing the Situation for Home Study Students

If you have been affected by college closures and you have to study from home, there are some valuable tips that can help to ease the situation. Naturally, you want to stay on track with your studies, and there are a few ways in which you can boost the chances of achieving this goal.

One of the things you need to do is to make sure you have somewhere quiet to study. This can be a challenge for those who have large families or others living in the household. The best way around this is to find a quiet area such

as a spare room or your bedroom and then set up a study area where you can sit and focus in peace whenever you are studying. Make sure you inform all household members that you cannot be disturbed or distracted during your time in the study area.

You also need to keep yourself organized if you want to boost your chances of success when it comes to studying at home. You will not have the same structure in place as you normally do, so you need to create structure by creating a study plan that enables you to dedicate time to all your subjects and classes. This will enable you to see what you are meant to be study-

ing and when, as well as ensuring you allocate sufficient time to all your subjects.

Another thing you need to do is exercise willpower and determination. When you do not have to go into college, it can be very tempting to just kick back and chill out or go out with friends and enjoy yourself. However, the college closures are not a holiday, they are in place because of the state of emergency we find ourselves in. As such, you need to treat your home study as college and spend as much time studying there as you would if you were in college.

With these tips, you can manage your home studies with greater ease.

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The State of Black Business, our impact and entrepreneurship

By Brian K. Marshall,
Guest Contributor

As we celebrate Black History Month this year, we can't help but reflect on how the topic of racial wealth disparity is as relevant today as it was during Martin Luther King Jr.'s years of activism in the 1960s. And as we come upon state and national elections this year, the topic of wealth disparity and economic justice continues to come up again and again.

The State of Black Business and Our Economic Impact

In his famed 1968 speech "I've Been to the Mountain-top" to assert black independence, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called on followers to strengthen black institutions and businesses by moving their money away from the white-run business and banking establishments and depositing their dollars into black-owned institutions. This idea, that buying and banking from black-owned businesses would empower the black community and close the racial wealth gap, has been widely embraced, historically by a diverse array of Americans including Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, Richard Nixon, and recently, by former President Obama.

But what is the state of black business in the United States today and have we made progress broad vs. incremental progress that many so expected? While entrepreneurship and small business ownership for minorities including African Americans have made some progress over the past 60 years, there is still much to be done.

Recent numbers indicate that we have 2.5 million U.S. black-owned businesses, which generate only \$150 billion in revenue. This represents negligible ownership and control over the nation's productive capacity. For instance, in 2017, the top 100 black-owned firms identified by Black Enterprise collectively grossed \$27 billion and employed 79,216 workers. While both numbers show growth of our black businesses from previous

years, in contrast, Walmart, the top firm by revenue in the U.S., grossed more than twenty times as much in revenue and employed 2.2 million more workers than the entire top 100 black-owned firms.

When blacks do own a business, the return to that business is lower than that of whites and falls well short of closing the racial wealth gap. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners (SBO), over 90 percent of Latino and black firms do not have even one employee other than the owners, and the proportion of owner-only firms reaches close to 98 percent for African American female-led businesses.

Also, even if blacks had the same business ownership rate as whites, the question of the scale and profitability of the business still would be an issue.

Data from the Small Business Administration indicates that just over 19 million businesses, or 70.9 percent of all U.S. businesses, are white-owned. Blacks own about 2.6 million businesses or 9.5 percent of all U.S. businesses, and Latinos own 3.3 million businesses or 12.2 percent of all American businesses. But the sales and employment numbers tell a more depressing story. The 19 million white-owned businesses have 88 percent of the overall sales, and

control 86.5 percent of U.S. employment, while black businesses have a mere 1.3 percent of total American sales, and 1.7 percent of the nation's employees.

Latino businesses have 4 percent of U.S. sales and 4.2 percent of U.S. employment.

But here is a clue, businesses with paid employees have a much greater economic impact than those without employees. The annual sales of businesses without employees are on average only a fraction of the sales of businesses with employees. While there are some firms without employees that are very successful financially, the majority are not. Sixty-seven percent of firms without employees had annual sales of less than \$25,000. Any profits these firms made—if they did make profits—would only be a fraction of the total sales. This means that many firms without employees do not make enough to keep their owners and their owners' families out of poverty if the firm is the owner's sole source of income. On the other hand, a majority (57.9 percent) of businesses with paid employees had annual sales of more than \$249,999. It is more likely that these firms are earning profits for their owners.

The State of Black Wealth Through Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship has long been praised as a route to eliminate the racial wealth gap. For at least three decades, gurus, black and white, have told people if they only left salaried employment and struck out on their own, they could create a path to wealth. This solution has neither been borne out by the evidence on a larger scale over time nor has it proven to be accurate advice under current circumstances.

Here is what we know: The racial wealth gap is large and shows no signs of closing. Recent data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation shows that black households hold less than seven cents on the dollar compared to white households. The white household living near the poverty line typically has about \$18,000 in wealth, while black households in similar economic straits typically have a median wealth near zero. This means, in turn, that many black families have a negative net worth.

As likely to deny loan applications from black business owners. At the same time, black business owners attempting to utilize a home equity loan were far less likely to be approved. The

At the same time, there is a recent report from the U.S. Federal Reserve showing that black business owners are having a hard time securing loans for their businesses. The report shows clearly that banks are twice

as likely to deny loan applications from black business owners. At the same time, black business owners attempting to utilize a home equity loan were far less likely to be approved. The

See IMPACT, Page 15

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 1661 Munger Ave., Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75202, Lat: [32-47-12.102], Long: [-96-48-9.6516]. 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, Beth, b.thompson@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388 ext. 813.*

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build multiple small cell monopole communications towers in the vicinity of Dallas, Dallas County, TX. The heights and locations for the proposed installations are as follows: 36-foot 6-inch tower at the approx. vicinity of 5605 Gaston Ave, 75214, Lat: [32-48-23.67], Long: [-96-45-42.1452]; 36-foot 6-inch tower at the approx. vicinity of 2802 State St, 75204, Lat: [32-47-47.544], Long: [-96-47-55.59]; 36-foot 6-inch tower at the approx. vicinity of Turtle Creek Blvd and Gillespie St, 75219, Lat: [32-48-13.5], Long: [-96-48-21.9204]; 36-foot 6-inch tower at the approx. vicinity of 5920 Swiss Ave, 75214, Lat: [32-48-40.7844], Long: [-96-45-31.3056]; 36-foot 6-inch tower at the approx. vicinity of 1909 Elm St, 75201, Lat: [32-46-56.0689], Long: [-96-47-44.9850]; 39-foot tower at the approx. vicinity of 3335 West Northwest Highway, 75220, Lat: [32.856576], Long: [-96.863941]. 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, Alicia, a.santucci@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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March 25

See CHURCH, Page 14



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CHURCH, from Page 13

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- Malachi 3:8-10

March 20, 7 pm

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

March 22, 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.

March 23, 7 p.m.

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

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March 22, 10 a.m.

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March 25, 7 pm

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

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March 25, 7 pm

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Death Notices - ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com

**Ruthie Mae (Smith)
Johnson**

Born: July 23, 1941
Died: March 3, 2020
Services: Saturday, March 14, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Second Mission Baptist Church
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

**Debra Diane
Nathan-Stewart**

Born: Oct. 27, 1956
Died: March 7, 2020
Services: Friday, March 13, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Second Mission Baptist Church
Superior Funeral Home

Clarence James, Jr.

Services: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 (12 p.m.) at Eternal Rest Funeral Home
Eternal Rest Funeral Home.

Mary Mackey

Services: Friday, March 13, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Straight Way Non Denominational Church
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Ayla Kelly

Services: Saturday, March 14, 2020 (11 a.m.) at St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Eternal Rest Funeral

Home

Debra Walls

Services: Saturday, March 14, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Calvary Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Dedra Boston

Services: Saturday, March 14, 2020 (2 p.m.) at Eternal Rest Funeral Home
Eternal Rest Funeral Home.

Lisa Sutton

Services: Monday, March 16, 2020 (2 p.m.) at Eternal Rest Funeral Home
Eternal Rest Funeral Home.

Norris Vonzell Tave

Services: Thursday, March 19, 2020 (1 p.m.) at Eternal Rest Funeral Home
Eternal Rest Funeral Home.

Eleanor Hardemon

Services: Saturday, March 21, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Eternal Rest Funeral Home
Eternal Rest Funeral Home.

Roosevelt Brewer, Jr.

Services: Saturday, March 21, 2020 (12 p.m.) at Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Melvin Dickens (Vet)

Born: April 6, 1942
Died: March 12, 2020
Prepared Place Funeral Home

Willie Brooks

Born: April 18, 1946
Died: March 15, 2020
Prepared Place Funeral Home

Michael Tilley

Born: May 16, 1984
Died: March 15, 2020
Prepared Place Funeral Home

Charles Mitchell

Services: Saturday, March 21, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Friendship West Baptist Church
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Ella Davis

Services: Saturday, March 21, 2020 (1 p.m.) at Community Bible Church
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Stanley Earl Cooper

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The story of Mary Elizabeth Bowser



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

Mary Elizabeth Bowser was born in the time period of 1839, in Richmond, Virginia. She was born as a slave for the Van Lew family. Her slave owner, John Van Lew, was a wealthy hardware merchant, he died in 1843, and Mary and other slaves were freed by Elizabeth and Elizabeth's mother.

Even though Mary was freed, she still continued to work for the family as a free, paid servant. Elizabeth Van Lew sent Mary to a Black Quaker school in Philadelphia. Mary had to return back to Richmond when the Civil War tension began in 1860.

Before the war started Mary was married to a free Black man, William (Wilson) Bowser, they were married four days after the Civil War began they never had children. Their wedding ceremony was unusual because they were married in a church that only the white and wealthy people attended.

At the beginning of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, Elizabeth Van Lew asked Mary to be a spy to help the Union. Elizabeth couldn't take on the task by herself because she was supposed

to be an important member of Richmond, but only because of her father's wealth and status.

Mary agreed to help Elizabeth out and started to work for the Confederate White House. She worked there until right before the end of the Civil War.

When Mary started to work for President Jefferson Davis and his wife she had to change some things. First, she had to change her name to "Ellen Bond" just so no one would know her actual identity. Then, she had to remind herself that she was going to be a slave again.

She was used to be treated with proper respect and like the intellectual that she actually was. But when she went to the Confederate White House she had to pretend to be unintelligent and act like she didn't understand what they were talking about so she could get information on the Confederates and their plans to attack the Union.

Ellen Bond (Mary Bowser) was considered "dim-witted, also slightly crazy, but an able servant" to the president and his wife.

Mary couldn't get the information that she needed if she only did her job. While she cleared the dishes or cleaned the kitchen she had to listen in on the conversations about troop strategies and movements.

Also, when she cleaned up around the Confederate



Born a slave, Mary Elizabeth Bowser became a valuable spy for the Union during the Civil War. (Photo: Public Domain)

White House she would go into President Jefferson Davis' office and look through the letters and other paper work on his desk. Mary had a very good memory so she would report what they said or what she read, word for word to either Elizabeth or a new messenger, Thomas McNiven.

Thomas McNiven was a baker that would come to the Confederate White House often to sell baked goods. Every time he would come by Mary would go out to the wagon and exchange the information while he gave her the bread. Thomas would go and tell Elizabeth the information that Mary told him.

Mary was different from most of the other slaves at that time because she could read, understand the conversations and write. She was an important asset to the win of the Union.

The president noticed that there was a leak in the Confederate White House, but he didn't suspect Mary until the very end of the war. When she knew that Jefferson suspected she was the leak, she fled the White House on January, 1865. As one last attempt to help the Union, she tried to burn down the Confederate Capitol, but was unsuccessful.

After the war there was no record of the life or death of Mary or William Bowser. The federal government burned all of the records of southern spies. The files

included Mary Bowser, Thomas McNiven and Elizabeth Van Lew, so that is why some of the details are missing in all of their histories.

In 1995, Mary was honored by the U.S. Government for her efforts in spying. She was inducted in the "U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame".

This was said at the ceremony: "Ms. Bowser succeeded in a highly danger-

ous mission to the great benefit of the Union effort. She was one of the highest placed and most productive espionage agents of the Civil War.

Ms. Bowser's information greatly enhanced the Union's conduct of the war. Jefferson Davis never discovered the leak in his household staff, although he knew the Union somehow kept discovering Confederate plans."

NDGtv North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**. Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

IMPACT, from Page 12

same barrier was faced in securing credit cards for their business. Angel investors and venture capital are also turning down black business owners at significantly higher rates. The one area of success black business owners did have in securing loans was from family and friends.

At the other end of America's economic spectrum, black households constitute less than 2 percent of those in the top one percent of the nation's wealth distribution; white households constitute more than 96 percent of the wealthiest Americans.

Closing Thoughts

To combat this wealth issue, robust black entrepreneurship will require an environment where the racial wealth disparity already has been confronted and altered directly. Greater black wealth, and hence financial capital, is the vital prerequisite for black entrepreneurship to assist in the wealth divide.

So, here is this writer's bottom line: The key to assisting black businesses in their development and growth lies in leveling the terrain of racial wealth differences and in-

creasing black access to capital in the first place. Has progress been made in our quest for business growth in certain industries? Yes, regardless of what the data states, the examples like the BE 100 still set the bar on what we can do in regard to economic impact through business and banking and wealth creation.

Are we there yet completely? No, but we are still moving forward as we have done for over 200 years.

Brian K. Marshall is the Director of Entrepreneurship at BCL of Texas and is a certified small business consultant with the Association of Accredited Small Business Consultants.

"We All Must Go Home To Glory"

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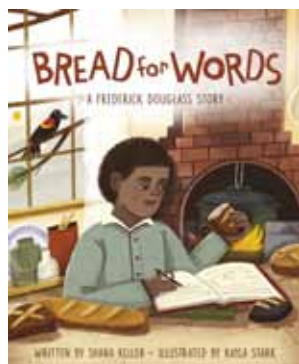
NDG Book Review: *Bread for Words: A Frederick Douglass Story*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It's that time of day and your stomach's growling.

That's what happens when you're hungry and you need to eat: your body reminds you that a growing kid like you needs good food. Feeding your belly makes you stronger, and in the new book "Bread for Words: A Frederick Douglass Story" by Shana Keller, illustrated by Kayla Stark, a young boy finds something to feed his soul.

Little Freddy didn't know when he was born, but he knew where: he came into the world in a cabin



in Tuckahoe, Maryland, and he lived there with his Grandma.

He did for awhile, anyhow, until the day Grandma sadly told Freddy that he had to leave the cabin because he was a slave and Old Master needed him at

"the Great House Farm." Freddy didn't exactly know what a slave was, but he quickly learned that being one meant lots of work and he absolutely had no say-so about it.

The only reason for that, as far as he could tell, was that his skin was dark and Master's son, Daniel, was fair-skinned. This also meant that Daniel had a nice bed with blankets, while Freddy had nothing like that at all. Daniel also had schoolbooks, but when Freddy asked to learn to read and write, he was told that it was "Unlawful" and "Unsafe."

Maybe he shouldn't have asked: his questioning got him sent to Baltimore, where he was supposed to take care of a boy named Thomas. Once there, Freddy got a better bed and just a little education, thanks to Thomas's mother – but then Thomas's father became very angry when he learned that his wife taught Freddy some words! Thomas's father knew that if Freddy could read, he might try to reach for freedom.

It was right then that Freddy knew how reading "could loosen the chains of bondage." It was then that he knew he had to make a

plan. "That moment" made him figure out a way...

No doubt about it: your child loves books. Most kids do; they love the pictures, the words, and the goodness of snuggling up with a new story. "Bread for Words" is one they'll love to share.

You'll have plenty to discuss with your little book-fan, too, once you've read this tale together. Author Shana Keller uses a small-but-momentous chain of events to introduce children to the life and work of Frederick Douglass, and it's all told quite minimally, starting with small slices of plantation life and end-

ing with Douglass' search for learning. This brevity makes the story more powerful in its lack. Hint: don't bother with the afterword; it mostly just repeats the body of the book, but do read the author's notes. Properly introduced and explained in a kid-friendly way, they could send kids running for more information.

While illustrations by Kayla Stark could be fun for small children, this book is really more for early grade-schoolers who enjoy biographies and history. Introduce "Bread for Words" to your 6-to-10-year-old, and they'll be eager to bite into it.

WILSON, from Page 2

aware and vigilant."

Wilson said she hopes law enforcement and mainstream media begin to take more serious and immediate looks at cases of missing women and girls of color.

"We find that when people of color — men and women — go missing, automatically it's assumed that there's some criminal activity involved or they've just run away. They are ste-

reotyped and not taken seriously," Wilson stated.

When authorities classify a case as a runaway, there's no Amber Alert, and the media tends to ignore the matter, she said.

"Even if they are runaways, we have to find them within the first 48

hours because we need to understand why they ran away and realize that many are lured into sex trafficking," Wilson stated.

The Black and Missing Foundation also helps families immediately after they report a missing loved one. "Many times, the families

don't know how to file a police report, and often when the file the report, an officer tells them that it could be a runaway situation or maybe drugs are involved," Wilson said.

"We tell the families that they know their loved ones, and they know what's not

their behavior. So, we are there for the families to hold their hands or to listen."

For more information about the Black and Missing Foundation, or to donate, visit www.blackandmissinginc.com.



If I could do one thing, I'd tell the world she counts.

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