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# Joe Biden's Plan for Empowering Black America

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior Correspondent

When former Vice President Joe Biden sat for an exclusive live stream interview with National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. in February, the now presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said it was crucial to secure the Black vote if he is to unseat President Donald Trump in November 2020.

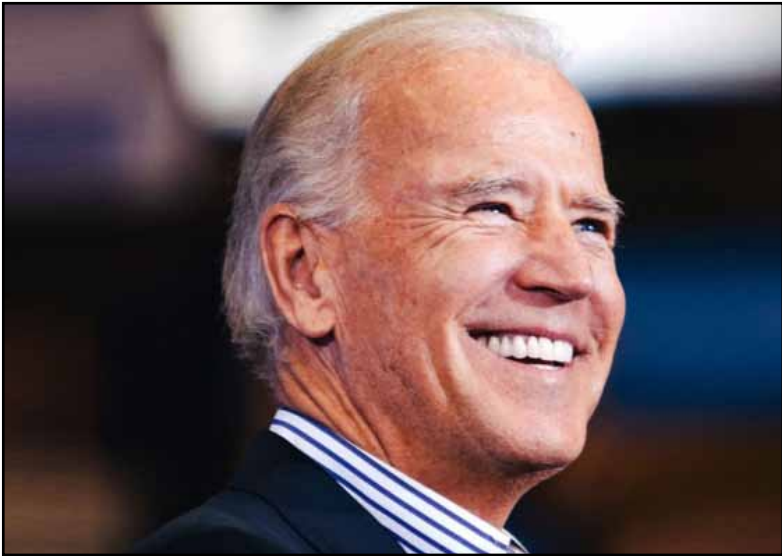
Now, the two-time former second-in-command to President Barack Obama has laid out a comprehensive plan for African Americans.

Biden said the plan reflects many months of work and feedback from local elected officials, activists, organizations, practitioners, policy experts, strategists, and young people.

His campaign called the plan "a living document."

It said the Biden team looks forward to hearing from everyone as they continue to develop the Democrat's vision for all of America.

In a news release, the campaign noted that Biden "knows we need a comprehensive agenda for African Americans with an ambition that matches the scale of the challenge and with a recognition that race-



*Biden said he plans to hold financial institutions accountable for discriminatory practices in the housing market, and he will restore the federal government's power to enforce settlements against discriminatory lenders. (NNPA)*

neutral policies are not a sufficient response to race-based disparities."

They said the Biden Plan for Black America would:

- Advance the economic mobility of African Americans and close the racial wealth and income gaps.
- Expand access to high-quality education and tackle racial inequity in our education system.
- Make far-reaching investments in ending health disparities by race.
- Strengthen America's commitment to justice.
- Make the right to vote and the right to equal protection real for Af-

rican Americans.

- Address environmental justice.

"Joe Biden knows that African Americans can never have a fair shot at the American Dream so long as entrenched disparities are allowed to chip away at opportunity quietly," his campaign's statement noted.

"He is running for President to rebuild our economy in a way that finally brings everyone along – and that starts by rooting out systemic racism from our laws, our policies,

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Now more than ever, Texas must expand Medicaid

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Generosity strengthens Parkland

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Lewisville cancels all events

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Good changes at JJ Rhoads in South Dallas

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Carrollton grabs top bond ratings

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ESSENCE makes half century mark

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### READERS SOUND OFF!!!

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## People In The News...



Valeisha Butterfield Jones



Lisa A. Thomas

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "Can we see in each other a common humanity, a shared dignity, and recognize how our different experiences have shaped us?" — President Barack Obama



## Valeisha Butterfield Jones

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior Correspondent

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

The Los Angeles-based Recording Academy consists of musicians, produc-



ers, recording engineers, and other musical professionals, and it's most famous for the Grammy Awards, which recognize achievements in the music industry.

Butterfield confirmed the

appointment on Instagram. "The mission continues, and I'm deeply honored to join you on this journey," Butterfield wrote.

"We are thrilled to welcome Valeisha Butterfield Jones into the Recording Academy family," said Academy Chair and Interim President and CEO Harvey Mason in a statement. "Valeisha has been a force in driving systemic change and enhancing equal opportunities for underrepresented groups across entertainment, technology, and politics."

He continued:

"I'm excited to work with her to continue evol-

ving the Recording Academy as an organization that represents our music community and a place where all voices are welcomed, supported, and nurtured. We are so fortunate to have Valeisha's leadership in this crucial area."

Variety reported that Butterfield Jones would report directly to Mason beginning on May 11. According to the announcement, she will join the executive leadership team responsible for advancing the Recording Academy's mission and ensuring that diversity and inclusion are core to business values and standards, and demonstrated throughout

the organization.

Butterfield Jones will "design, build and implement world-class programs and industry standards focused on inclusion, belonging and representation for underrepresented communities and creators," according to the news release.

The daughter of U.S. Congressman G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.) and North Carolina State Legislator Jean Farmer Butterfield, Valeisha Butterfield Jones most recently served as the Global Head of Women and Black Community Engagement for Google.

She's also served in the Obama Administration

as the Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the International Trade Administration, and Butterfield Jones also held the post of Executive Vice President of Rush Communications and as the National Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Alzheimer's Association.

She maintains a seat on the National Board of Directors of ColorComm, MC Lyte's Hip Hop Sisters Network, and iVote.

"The Recording Academy has an opportunity and responsibility to ensure that diversity and inclusion are embedded in its core values," Butterfield Jones stated.

## Lisa A. Thomas

(BlackNews.com) -- Lisa A. Thomas is the featured subject of celebrity photojournalist Bruce Bell's new photographic timeline, *In Search of the Authentic Lisa A. Thomas*. She is a philanthropist, advocate, and the mother of six adopted children with special needs.

Lisa was born in Beaumont, Texas on August 31, 1966, to Walter and LouAnna Thomas. She is number six of seven children, two boys and four girls. As a child, Lisa was ambitious, thrifty, and entrepreneurial, and a Daddy's girl. An early marriage ended abruptly,



and she found herself divorced caring for a special needs' child. In her struggle to find herself amidst all of life's challenges.

She decided to search for her true identity. This photograph memoir is her tes-

tament to the work she has done personally and professionally in order to be the best caregiver to the special needs community nationally and abroad. Life's challenges have shaped Lisa and made her a pleasant mystery. She is a gift to so many people in the disability's arena, a legendary enigma to some, and a multi-faceted diamond to others. Today we find Lisa in the midst of her journey to true authenticity. This photographic timeline gives you the opportunity to join her in this incredible adventure that has taken her from the streets of Beaumont, Texas to the rural cities of South

Africa and Kenya where her Foundation From the Heart provides fiscal and educational support for special needs families.

Launched in 1996, her foundation provides consulting and educational resources to parents and caregivers. Her journey started with volunteering her time at public schools and later being hired as a Para Professional in the classrooms working with individuals with special needs. She founded and has run Camp Angel, a summer camp serving children and adults from the age of 3-22 years old for 16 years. Lisa has also fostered sev-

eral individuals with special needs for 15 years through the Texas Child Protective Services. She also obtained a contract with the Department of Aging and Disabilities and provides direct care and consultation to caregivers.

She has adopted six individuals, opened group homes, an Adult Day Habilitation, hosted Companion Care and Respite workshops for caregivers and families who need a break. She is a constant inspiration for the disability's community doing motivational speaking, workshops and seminars. In Africa, the foundation has built schools

and clinics with professional and quality staff in each area. A resource center for parents, caregivers and the community are in the plan for the future.

Lisa personally has 29 years of providing selfless interventions advocating for children, adults and caregivers. Her mission is to continue the journey until the world and the population of families of children with disabilities live a life of prosperity and productivity.

For more information about Lisa or the book, *In Search of the Authentic Lisa A. Thomas*, visit [www.lisaathomas.solutions](http://www.lisaathomas.solutions).

## NDG Readers Sound Off...

### Texas reopening - proceed with caution

I'm with you. With the Covid positive numbers increasing, we should not be opening up. It is in direct conflict with the CDC guidelines. Testing availability is needed as well before we can proceed safely.

- Stoneshare

Check the Stanford study, check Cuomo's NYC antibody count (21% had antibodies). RE: Stanford study, "Covid-19 is drastically more widespread than local

swab testing suggests: 50- to 85-fold, the researchers calculated. The math that follows from there is even more significant. Assuming a higher infection rate consequently lowers the disease's estimated fatality rate, driving it from around 1 percent to just 0.12 to 0.2 percent. For the record, the death rate from the flu is about 0.1 percent."

I believe a responsible easing of restrictions is both science-based and logical. Quarantine the sick, not the healthy, at-risk population quarantine (per phase 1 recommendations). It's all common

sense when you follow the science. At first we didn't have data, hence the models being SO far off. Now that we have the data, let's use our God-given critical thinking, and follow the science.

Let's follow the Phase 1 guidelines, and start enjoying our life again, responsibly.

- Jimmy James

### Op-Ed: Now more than ever, Texas must expand Medicaid to save lives

Thank you for your commitment to healthcare

expansion and protection!  
- Connie Gibson

### Dallas ISD is South Dallas Proud; announce expanded all-day learning center and new STEAM academy

The South Dallas Area will finally receive an opportunity to showcase the community of student's and their love for the humanities. The students will quickly adapt and thrive in a STEAM-based academic program. Honestly, I was never confident the children would be given such an opportunity.

- Ron Oliver

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

# Now more than ever, Texas must expand Medicaid to save lives

By Rep. Colin Allred

Despite what you might hear coming out of Washington, D.C., affordable access to quality health care is not a partisan issue for regular Americans. That basic fact is even more pronounced as people struggle to survive the coronavirus pandemic.

I was born here in North Texas and raised by a single mother who was a public school teacher, so I know the struggles working families face when it comes to obtaining a quality, affordable health care. One in four people in Texas lack health care coverage. Many of the most vulnerable folks among us were in a health crisis long before the coronavirus. We need action from our leaders to remedy this situation right away.

April marks Medicaid Awareness Month, and I'm working in Congress to promote the expansion of Medicaid here in Texas to cover more people and improve public health for all Texans. This pandemic shines a spotlight on the

disparities that have left rural areas, the underserved, and people of color most exposed to this deadly virus. Coronavirus has shown in stark terms that too many people are falling through the cracks in our health care system. These are hard-working folks who deserve better from their leaders in Austin and in Washington, D.C. Medicaid expansion is critical to addressing these disparities, and improving health care for everyone.

The numbers don't lie. If Texas expands Medicaid, more than 2 million Texans could gain coverage. Research has shown that the states that have already adopted Medicaid expansion have seen better health outcomes for children and families, stronger funding for rural hospitals, and reduced racial disparities in health care. Medicaid expansion also improves financial security for families, making them less likely to accrue medical debt while ensuring they get the care they need. This would help real people living in our Texas communities.

Multiple studies have shown that Medicaid expansion reduces uncompensated care costs, improving the overall financial stability of hospitals. Already, 26 rural hospitals in Texas have closed in recent years, but Medicaid expansion can help: research shows that rural hospitals are 62 percent less likely to close in states that expanded Medicaid.

I'm only in my first term in Congress, but I'm working hard to provide support for Medicaid expansion. I've teamed up with my fellow North Texan, Congressman Marc Veasey, to support legislation that would incentivize states like Texas to expand their Medicaid programs by giving the same level of federal matching funds as states that expanded Medicaid earlier. This means that the federal government will fully cover the costs of expansion for three years. After that, the federal government will pay 95 percent in year four, 94 percent in year five, 93 percent in year six, and 90 percent for each year

thereafter.

Texas economists estimate that expansion would bring in billions per year to the state's economy and would create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

We have an obligation to use the tools we have to protect as many people as possible from succumbing to this deadly virus. Medicaid expansion is the best tool we have. It's high time we picked up that tool and used it to help Texans.

I first sought this office because I believe that we need leadership that stands up for everyone, not just the special interests that rigged the system against ordinary people in the first place.

I'm fighting to empower the community I grew up in here in North Texas, and Medicaid expansion will make a real difference for us all. It's in the interest of every Texan, and it's time to get it done.

*Rep. Colin Allred represents the 32nd Congressional District of Texas. He is a Dallas native and was a former NFL player and voting rights attorney.*

## COVID-19 and Mother's Day

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

I wish mom were still here so I could take her out to Sunday dinner. The problem with Sunday dinner this Mother's Day is that most of the restaurants either won't be open yet or operating under new guidelines. Restaurants make their biggest payday of the year typically on Mother's Day. Even in states that are wide open for dining, there is the problem of social distancing. Can you imagine this week going to a restaurant that only is allowed 25% occupancy or maybe 50% occupancy at best?

This year to celebrate mom's day you still can patronize your favorite restaurant by ordering from them and bringing the food back home.

So many millions are struggling financially. Buying a nice meal from a restaurant to take home to feed everyone is a stretch for many. With 70,000 or more deaths now due to Covid-19, this Mother's Day will be the hardest day ever for a lot of families. There will be an empty chair at the table. Millions of Americans have moms in nursing homes. Their moms are in danger of being ex-

posed to Covid-19. People will probably not be able to visit mother because she is in a nursing home. This is painful. There are just so many distressing scenarios being played out around the world. From health care workers who are at risk, to unemployment and a new era of poverty hitting out the country, to people just going crazy over social distancing.

The way to celebrate Mother's Day this year is don't forget. Don't distance yourself from this celebration. Honor mom while you have her. Honor some other mothers too who have been special to you.

When I was a child, I had \$5 my dad gave me for being "brave" to have my tonsils removed. The only thing I wanted to do as a child was to take mom and dad to the local G.C. Murphy's grill. We sat at the bar and we all had hotdogs and cokes that cost me about \$3. My mom didn't want me to spend my \$5 but she smiled when I bought lunch that day as a 7-year-old kid. I would love to have mom back this Sunday and do anything that might make her smile.

Contact Glenn at GMollette@aol.com or glennmollette.com.

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# Community generosity boosts Parkland's COVID-19 response

More than \$3.5 million in philanthropic gifts have been committed to Parkland Foundation to support a new Public Health Preparedness Fund, helping Parkland Health & Hospital System respond to the most urgent needs that come with delivering quality, compassionate care in Dallas County during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"As the only public health system in Dallas County, Parkland depends on the generosity of dedicated supporters to sustain its high level of care through public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic," explains Michael A. Horne, EdD, president and CEO of Parkland Foundation. "We are grateful for the outpouring of support from so many in our community at such a critical time. On behalf of our caregivers and patients, I extend a most sincere



thank you."

The Public Health Preparedness Fund was established by generous, long-time Parkland champions as cases of COVID-19 arrived in Dallas County. In addition to helping Parkland respond to the current pandemic, the fund will also build capacity for Parkland to make an imme-

diate impact locally when the next public health emergency arises.

Donations to the Public Health Preparedness Fund have already provided:

- State-of-the-art, rapid testing machines for COVID-19 and other diseases,
- Childcare support for critical frontline healthcare workers,

- UV light disinfectant systems that can eradicate "superbugs" like COVID-19,

- Drive-through screening sites at Parkland, the American Airlines Center and Ellis Davis Field House, and

- Furniture and additional staffing to accommodate a surge in patient volume.

Additional ways to help Parkland and support our caregivers include:

- DHD Films and Dallas-based Energy Transfer have teamed up to create Dallas Healthcare Heroes: A Campaign of Gratitude. For every video that is submitted expressing gratitude to healthcare professionals, Parkland Foundation will receive \$50 for the Public Health Preparedness Fund from Energy Transfer, up to \$100,000. Go to [www.dallashealthcareheroes.com](http://www.dallashealthcareheroes.com) for more information.
- Messages of gratitude

and encouragement for Parkland's caregivers on the front lines can also be submitted at [www.IStandforParkland.org/ThankYou](http://www.IStandforParkland.org/ThankYou).

- New and unopened personal protection equipment is being accepted for donations. Complete information can be found at [www.parklandhospital.org/PPE](http://www.parklandhospital.org/PPE).

- For those shopping online, a percentage of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases can be donated to help Parkland. Details can be found at [www.IStandforParkland.org/Shop](http://www.IStandforParkland.org/Shop).

As Parkland continues to screen and treat COVID-19 patients, provide assistance

for caregivers on the front line, secure personal protection equipment and purchase necessary testing and disinfecting supplies, Parkland Foundation continues to accept donations with a goal of raising \$10 million for the Public Health Preparedness Fund.

Donations can be made online at [www.IStandforParkland.org/Parkland-Strong](http://www.IStandforParkland.org/Parkland-Strong) or by contacting Cindy Scott, vice president of development, at [cindy.scott@phhs.org](mailto:cindy.scott@phhs.org) or 214-266-2021. A full list of donors can be found at [www.IStandforParkland.org/PublicHealth](http://www.IStandforParkland.org/PublicHealth).

## More than 400,000 unsafe airbags remain in vehicles on DFW roads

More than 400,000 recalled Takata airbags remain on Dallas-Fort Worth-area roads in vehicles representing 19 vehicle manufacturers. SafeAirbags.com, an organization notifying owners about this urgent airbag safety recall, is urging owners and drivers of affected vehicles to immediately schedule an appointment for a free recall repair to prevent potentially serious injuries or even death.

Affected vehicles include those made by BMW, Chrysler, Daimler, Ferrari, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Infiniti, Jaguar, Land Rover, Lexus, Mazda, McLaren, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Scion, Subaru, Tesla, Toyota, and Volkswagen. Dealerships around the country have replacement parts available, and the free recall repair should take about one to a few hours depending on vehicle make and model.

A defective part inside the airbag can explode when

the airbag deploys, potentially shooting sharp metal fragments at the driver and passengers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has confirmed that 16 people in the U. S. have been killed, and hundreds of others alleged to have been injured, by this defect.

A recall awareness campaign is underway to help stress the urgent need to have these defective airbags repaired. In addition to official recall notice letters sent directly from vehicle manufacturers, owners are receiving notification through postcards, emails, social media, and other forms of communication urging them to contact their dealer to schedule an appointment for a free recall repair.

The call to action is simple.

- Owners affected by the Takata airbag recall should immediately schedule a FREE recall repair at a local dealership.

- Owners uncertain whether their vehicles are part of the Takata airbag recall can easily check a vehicle's identification number (VIN) by visiting [NHTSA.gov/Recalls](http://NHTSA.gov/Recalls) or [SafeAirbags.com](http://SafeAirbags.com).

- A free smartphone app, Airbag Recall, is available for download, enabling owners to take a picture of a license plate to determine if their vehicle, or a family member or friend's vehicle, is under recall.

Dealerships in Texas generally have replacement parts available, and the free recall repair should take about one to a few hours depending on vehicle make and model.

"More than 15.9 million airbags recalled have not been repaired," said Patrick Juneau of SafeAirbags.com. Juneau was appointed by a Federal court in Florida to administer an outreach program aimed at repairing these defective airbags. "Unfortunately, many consumers are not taking immediate

action, either because they have been ignoring safety recall notices, or do not understand the severity of the situation."

For more information, visit [www.NHTSA.gov/Recalls](http://www.NHTSA.gov/Recalls) or [www.SafeAirbags.com](http://www.SafeAirbags.com).

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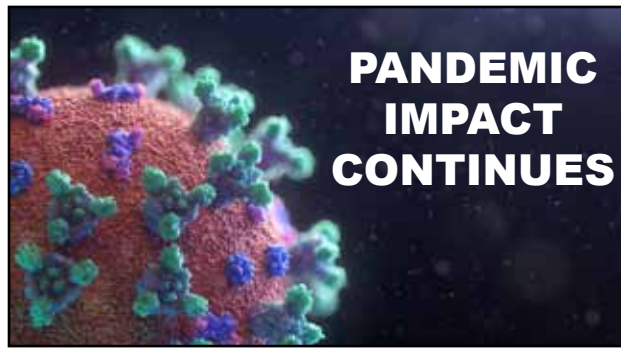


# The City of Lewisville is cancelling all events through September due to COVID-19 and budget cuts

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 disease outbreak, the uncertainty of when restrictions will be lifted on large-scale gatherings, and major budgetary concerns, the City of Lewisville is cancelling all city-sponsored public events through late September.

"This is a very difficult decision to make," said City Manager Donna Barron. "From a budget standpoint, we're at a point where we must choose between cutting programs or cutting people, and we felt it best to cut programs in order to retain our employees. The employees help make these programs so successful."

The City is facing an almost \$1 million loss in revenue into the Hotel Oc-



cupancy Tax fund because of the COVID-19 disease outbreak. That revenue is what pays for these special events. If new or modified guidelines for large-scale gatherings are enacted, the City's next public event will be Western Days, Sept. 25-26.

"I feel bad for residents who enjoy coming out to these events," said Mayor Rudy Durham. "These

events allow people to enjoy the moment. They're a chance to bring the family out for some fun and games and good music and forget about the outside world for a little while."

Events that are cancelled include: KTA Jam Session (May 8), St. Paddy's Texas Style (May 23), Fiesta Charra (May 30), the entire Sounds of Lewisville Concert Series (June and

July), and the Sounds of Red, White and Lewisville concert and Old Town fireworks show (July 3).

"It's unfortunate we're at this point, but the health, safety, and well-being of our residents, staff, and volunteers is what's most important to us," said Barron. "When we are able to have large-scale public events again, we want people to come enjoy themselves without worrying about being around a large group of people."

A list of potential cuts for Western Days has been created, but a final decision on that event will not be made until early June. The list of potential cuts includes reducing the event to a single day or cancelling the event

for 2020 if necessary. The City will announce updates on [cityoflewisville.com](http://cityoflewisville.com) as well as through its Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.

The cancellation of these special events is the latest cost-saving measure made by the City as it deals with major revenue shortfalls in excess of \$15 million due to the COVID-19 disease outbreak. Some of the budget reduction response measures already enacted by the City to mitigate the impact to the General Fund include:

- Reduction in funding for Capital Improvement Projects as well as one-time capital purchases

- All vacant positions are placed on hold for review

by the City Manager prior to posting the position

- All purchases are reviewed by Finance and City Manager's Office prior to expending or encumbering funds

- Department line item savings

- Stoppage of all employee training and travel

- Delayed opening of Thrive

- Delayed renovation of the Lewisville Municipal Annex

With all the budget cuts being made, and additional cuts likely, it's important for Lewisville residents to know essential services including police, fire, and utilities will continue uninterrupted.

## World Vision hosts virtual 6K walk for water to fight global spread of COVID-19

On Saturday, May 16, thousands in Dallas-Fort Worth and worldwide will virtually unite through the world's biggest 6K for clean water, World Vision's annual Global 6K for Water. People will walk or run 6 kilometers from their homes or neighborhoods to provide clean water and hygiene to those in the developing world who are vulnerable to COVID-19.

Access to clean water and hygiene is more critical than ever as we fight the global spread of this deadly virus. In the developing world, three billion people do not have handwashing options in their homes. In the rural healthcare clinics where World Vision works, only 16% have handwashing stations available to healthcare workers and patients.

"One of our first lines of defense against the coronavirus has been diligently washing our hands. But millions in the developing world do not have access to



World Vision hopes to raise money for water around the world to the underserved. (Courtesy Image)

clean water to even do that. Children suffering from malnutrition and healthcare workers in rural clinics where resources are scarce are especially vulnerable to the virus," said Ashley Colquitt-Finley, the Global 6K for Water Race Director. "World Vision provides clean water to one person every 10 seconds and is committed to reaching 800 rural health clinics that serve over 7 million people. The Global 6K for Water gives people an opportunity to move their feet while

also making a global impact in fighting COVID-19—all while practicing social distancing!"

Sign-up and participation is easy! Every \$50 registration fee will provide life-changing clean water and hygiene to one person so they can wash their hands and prevent the spread of COVID-19. You can exercise social distancing by walking or running as an individual or family from your home or neighborhood. When you register, World Vision will send

you a Global 6K for Water t-shirt, a finisher's medal, and a race bib with a photo of the child that you'll be walking or running for that day.

"When you register for the 6K, you are protecting a child or healthcare worker from COVID-19 and other deadly diseases. The more people who register, the more children who get clean water. For these children, it's a chance for a future that

is safe and healthy," added Colquitt-Finley. "Everyone, no matter age, size or fitness level, is encouraged to participate. So many of us are at home in need of fun things to do, and this is the perfect way to get moving while also changing the world!"

World Vision is the largest non-governmental (NGO) provider of clean water in the developing world. In 2019, World Vi-

sion reached 4.3 million people with handwashing behavior change education and facilitated the construction of nearly half a million handwashing stations. In the past year, World Vision reached nearly 400 rural health clinics with clean water, hygiene, and staff training on infection disease prevention.

Register or learn more today by visiting [WorldVision6K.org](http://WorldVision6K.org).

## LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
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2179	Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	6/17/20	12/14/20
2185	Holiday Cheer Overall Odds are 1 in 4.08	\$2	6/17/20	12/14/20
2052	\$50,000 Bonus Cashword Overall Odds are 1 in 4.07	\$3	6/17/20	12/14/20

Txlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, [mgpambling.org](http://mgpambling.org). © 2020 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

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# Changes at J.J. Rhoads are good news for South Dallas

By Justin Henry  
Dallas ISD Trustee  
District 9

Dallas ISD is opening a new early learning center at J.J. Rhoads Elementary next school year. This is good news for South Dallas families. The center will offer quality instruction for children in grades pre-K3 and 4, kindergarten, and first grade, giving our youngest learners a strong academic foundation. Working parents will have access to a safe, dependable early learning program from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., including after-school music and art activities.

It's a fact that students who receive quality pre-K instruction perform better throughout their school



Dallas ISD J.J. Rhoads Elementary will become an Early Learning Center this fall. (Courtesy photo)

years and even into adulthood, so we owe it to our children to welcome this new learning opportunity.

In 2021, the new H.S. Thompson STEAM School opens, offering robust academic instruction in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics for students in grades

K-5. And a district-community partnership will create wraparound social services at Rhoads to serve the entire South Dallas community.

Two experienced educators will work together at Rhoads next school year to manage this transition.

Rhoads principal Chaundra Macklin will oversee

the expanded early learning center and manage instruction for students from pre-K3 through first grade.

Co-principal Crystal Owens will serve as the instructional leader for Rhoads' students in grades 2-5 as she staffs and makes plans to open the new H.S. Thompson STEAM school in 2021.

From the beginning, these changes were developed with input and feedback from parents and community residents, including J.J. Rhoads parent and PTO president Aundrey Evans.

"The transformation of Rhoads into an early learning center is what South Dallas needs to build a good educational foundation for students," Evans said. "We're also excited that the new STEAM school at

Thompson will keep all the kids together as they move into elementary."

Parent Serena Vazquez also welcomes the early learning center. "In this area, there are a lot of single moms who can't afford day-care or can't work because they don't have anyone to watch their children," she says. "Families need a safe place for kids to stay. Moms will be able to work knowing their kids are safe and in a good environment."

Retired Dallas ISD administrator Shirley Ison-Newsome supervised Rhoads and other South Dallas schools for well over a decade. She calls the plan for Rhoads a good model. "Fortunately, J.J. Rhoads is not closing, but is being repurposed in what I consider

a very thoughtful and productive manner that brings needed educational services to the community while maintaining this educational institution."

These changes may well present challenges. Dallas ISD has partnerships with most quality child care providers in South Dallas. While there may be impacts to these partners, Dallas ISD is committed to working with each of them to lessen (and hopefully avoid) any negative outcomes. We know that there are additional children who are not being served, and that is the population Dallas ISD wants to reach.

Learn more and follow the progress of this effort at [www.dallasisd.org/southdallas](http://www.dallasisd.org/southdallas).

## Texas Can Academies students enjoy a curbside graduation

For Texans Can Academies students, the road to graduation can be much longer and steeper than for most. These students have shown perseverance and strength that would normally be honored at a classic graduation ceremony but because of the COVID-19 crisis, their chance to walk the stage has been delayed to August. When administrators and teachers at Texans Can Academies Oak Cliff learned that their 28 graduating seniors wouldn't have a ceremony, they knew they had to do something to celebrate their students' hard work.

Texans Can students overcome many more obstacles to be in school and stay in school than most high school students. Some had dropped out of school and earned their diplomas with hard work and perseverance. Many of their students work part-time or full-time and need the flexible hours the Texans Can schools offer so that they are able to stay in school.



Texas Can Academy officials decorated their vehicles and hosted a curbside graduation for 2020 students.

Many are the first in their families to earn a high school diploma. Many need extra tutoring and one-on-one attention to get caught up to their grade levels. For all, high school graduation is a huge accomplishment and the ceremony is one they have been dreaming of anxiously working to earn.

"We were trying to find a way to honor our students who are waiting to hear from us about their graduation ceremony," Texans Can Academies Oak Cliff Principal Norma Villegas said. "We decided to not

cancel but postpone our senior events, but in the midst of this pandemic, we knew we had to do more for them so we decided to create celebratory yard signs and personally deliver them to each graduating student."

The idea of a social distanced graduation goody delivery train quickly blossomed into much more.

"At first it was just going to be myself and my administrative team but when I mentioned it to the staff, everyone jumped on board, or more accurately, lined up their cars," Villegas

explained. "We carefully planned our route to visit each student – the drive route to their homes should have taken two hours but we ended up in our cars for six hours, stopping and celebrating our kids. It was amazing."

Faculty and staff decorated their cars with paint markers and graduation party decorations and lined up to visit their accomplished students. Staff honked, waved, and shouted messages of love and support from afar. They embodied the notion of being all together while apart.

"Honestly, I think the event did more for us," Villegas admitted. "It was so uplifting and took us back to the reason why we do what we do in all this chaos. We work so hard with our students to see them walk the stage, it keeps us going. These times are scary and we don't know what will happen tomorrow but yesterday was about our students and showing them the love and pride we have

for them. It really helped to take some time to appreciate the moment with each individual student."

Texans Can Academies Oak Cliff will hold a graduation ceremony for their students at the end of the summer at Friendship-West Baptist Church. Though the final plans have yet to be

made, their staff is determined that their students will walk the stage.

"It might be three or five at a time, spread out, families spaced between pews, I'm not sure," Villegas added. "But my students will walk. Our kids work so hard to get this diploma, they deserve it."



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# City of Carrollton receives 'AAA' long-term ratings on bonds

S&P Global Ratings (S&P) and Fitch Ratings, Inc. independently assigned a "AAA" long-term rating to the City of Carrollton for a \$24 million (\$20.94 million par value) in general obligation (GO) improvement bonds, series 2020. The rating outlook is Stable.

S&P and Fitch also independently affirmed Carrollton's "AAA" long-term rating for the City's previously issued \$174 million in outstanding GO debt, series 2010 through series 2019.

"S&P and Fitch's reviews were very thorough given the current situation with COVID-19 and the resulting impact on the economy. I am pleased to once again report the confirmation of a AAA-Stable rating from both agencies," Assistant City Manager for Finance Bob Scott said. "This is literally as good as it gets ratings-wise."



*The City of Carrollton enjoyed economic growth across the board throughout 2019, S&P Global Ratings issues a "AAA" long-term rating. (Courtesy photo)*

S&P assigned the "AAA" scores based on a very strong economy with access to a broad and diverse metropolitan statistical area (MSA); very strong management with strong financial policies and practices; adequate budgetary performance with balanced operating results; very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity with a low contingent liability; as well as a strong S&P institutional

framework score.

"Carrollton's strong financial position is a reflection of the City's stable leadership and is the result of the vision and support of the City Council over a long period of time," Scott said. "We are very pleased that S&P Global and Fitch, Inc. recognize the importance of strong financial practices that have been verified as effective through consistently strong financial re-

sults even in times of economic downturn."

Fitch affirms the ratings reflect the City's high level of demonstrated and anticipated operating financial resilience through the current economic downturn; substantial expenditure flexibility; solid revenue growth prospects with limited liability burden; and consistent strong operating performance.

"Strong financial management, robust forecasting, and frequent budget monitoring practices are the underpinning of an efficient, successfully-run City like Carrollton," Mayor Kevin Falconer said. "The City Council regularly reviews rolling capital improvement plans, budgetary status reports, and quarterly investment reports supplied by City management. These practices along with strong financial leadership and fiscally responsible budgeting allows us to weather storms

such as the one we are in today and ensure the City of Carrollton is primed for future growth."

The City's GO bonds are issued on a pledge of the continued direct annual ad valorem tax levied, within the limits prescribed by law, on all taxable property within the City. According to S&P, the City's levy is well below the maximum and is on par with S&P's view of Carrollton's general creditworthiness.

The City of Carrollton will use the proceeds from the series 2020 GO bonds to fund \$21.2 million in street improvements and traffic flow; \$2.45 million in Parks and Recreation improvements; and \$350,000 in public safety improvements.

S&P's report states Carrollton has historically maintained strong budgetary performance tied to strong revenue growth and conservative budget-

ing and recognizes that the City will likely experience short-term revenue loss tied to the COVID-19 driven economic shutdown, but believe that its existing policies and budget monitoring well-positions the City to weather the temporary disruption and limit its exposure to economically sensitive revenues within the operating budget.

The Fitch report acknowledges that the City's demonstrated willingness and ability to adjust spending when necessary has preserved a strong and stable reserve cushion, leaving the City well-positioned to maintain the highest level of financial resilience despite the sharper impact of U.S. GDP (gross domestic product) decline on city revenues assumed in Fitch's current model.

For more information on Carrollton's fiscal status, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/finance](http://cityofcarrollton.com/finance).



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**[allred.house.gov/coronavirus](http://allred.house.gov/coronavirus)** if you need help.

Remember, it will take all of us to beat this virus so stay home, and stay safe.



@RepColinAllred 

**Dallas**

To kick-off **Teacher and Administrator's Appreciation Week** (May 4 – May 8), the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture launches its "Thank A Teacher" Campaign to recognize the hard work of Educators, especially during this Pandemic, where teaching has taken a different turn and challenge.

In honor of **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**, the Crow Museum of Asian Art of The University of Texas at Dallas will offer 31 Days of Asia



Unsplash

in May virtually spotlighting a multitude of Asian art, cultural programming, and Asian-focused experiences at crowmuseum.org and the museum's social channels (Instagram and Facebook).

**Garland**

Following the guidelines set this week by Gov. Greg Abbott, Garland is prepar-

ing to **reopen the Bridges Course at Firewheel Golf Park and the Jack Coleman Tennis Center.**

At the Bridges clubhouse, the restaurant will remain closed and inside access will be limited. Tee time gaps will be spread from 8 minutes to 12 minutes to create space between groups and rakes will be removed from sand traps to prevent use by multiple golfers over the course of a day. The driving range will be open, with increased distances between tee boxes. Carts will be limited to a single user, per the governor's order. For

more information on precautions while golfing, visit [GolfFirewheel.com](http://GolfFirewheel.com).

Tennis also can be played with social distance in mind and in groups of four or less, which matches the guidelines in the state's first phase of reopening. The Jack Coleman Tennis Center features 13 courts at Rick Oden Park, 1010 W. Miller Road.

In addition, as approved by the City Council on Tuesday night, curbside service at all four Garland libraries will resume in the next week. But the libraries themselves remain closed to the public, as do the City's

arts venues, recreation and senior centers and municipal court.

The City also continues to work with utilities customers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those behind on payments are asked to contact Utility Customer Service at 972-205-2671 or [CustServ@GarlandTX.gov](mailto:CustServ@GarlandTX.gov) to discuss their situation.

Under the state order, public swimming pools, bars, interactive amusement venues and salons remain closed. Long-term care facilities remain closed to visitors.

City health and emergency management officials remind residents that during the first phase of the governor's plan, residents are asked to stay home if they can, to keep physical distancing and to wash or disinfect hands.

**Irving**

Continuing through at least June 30, each Tuesday carcasean will be hosting a **free one-hour live virtual event where small business owners and leaders** may come to ask questions and get them answered. Register at Eventbrite.

## DCCCD Foundation providing support during Scholarship Week

With Scholarship Week underway, the Dallas County Community College Foundation is poised to offer a variety of financial packages that may help students with their educational pursuits. But to receive aid, students must apply first.

The Foundation offers more than 400 scholarships annually, however, there



are some myths about who qualifies and that often tempts the interest of prospective and current students, said Pyeper Wilkins, Chief of Advancement Initiatives for the Foundation.

"We have scholarships available for students of all ages, at every location, and for a wide variety of programs," Wilkins said. "Some require that students have a certain grade point

average or have financial need, but many do not have those kinds of requirements. Our system will automatically match students with the scholarships for which they are eligible, so all students should apply."

Of the 400 scholarships, there are about 80 that have no applicants, officials said. Scholarship Week is May 4

through May 8 and district officials hope to get the message out to both current students and those interested in attending one of the district's seven colleges.

The deadline to apply for Fall is June 1.

"We are working to make sure more students are aware so that they can apply before the deadline,"

Wilkins said.

DCCCD Foundation provides scholarships all year long. All scholarship recipients are subject to DCCCD and federal financial aid regulations.

For more information, please go to: <https://www.foundation.dcccd.edu/myscholarships>

## Champions of Justice Gala Benefiting Veterans raises \$422,800

AUSTIN – The Texas Access to Justice Commission with its co-sponsor, the State Bar of Texas, honored veterans throughout the state at the Virtual 2020 Champions of Justice Gala Benefiting Veterans. More than \$422,800 was raised to help provide civil legal services to low-income Texas veterans.

Proceeds are distributed

by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation and dedicated to the provision of civil legal services for low-income Texas veterans.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Gala was held as a virtual event. The Gala featured video remarks from guest speakers Supreme Court of Texas Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, Supreme Court of Texas Justice Brett Busby,

Mr. Terry Tottenham, and the distinguished keynote speaker, General Raymond A. Thomas III. Throughout the evening, the speakers underscored the importance of welcoming our veterans home into a community of support.

General Thomas spoke with conviction about his past experience in military service and how he has a profound understanding

of the issues facing our veterans. General Thomas delivered his remarks with kidness, levity, and care as he discussed the grave reality for veterans in Texas as they return from deployment and seek help with their legal issues. A particularly noteworthy part of General Thomas' speech was a story he shared about Mary, a veteran who was denied housing assistance

after hurricane Harvey but was able to secure housing through the help of a legal aid lawyer. General Thomas' address underscored the importance of the Champions of Justice Gala and reminded attendees that their support unites us all during a difficult time.

General Thomas touched on the role of the Texas Access to Justice Commission in helping veterans transi-

tion to civilian life by saying, "The vast majority of them [veterans] are extremely proud and vibrant human beings who want to contribute to society, just like they did in the armed forces. Some of them are returned worse for the wear and tear and have special needs and requirements. That's where this effort and this Commission plays significant role."

## BIDEN, from Page 1

our institutions, and our hearts."

With the novel coronavirus hitting African Americans the hardest, Biden's plan recognizes the disparities long faced by the Black community.

In April, he called on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to collect more data regarding how COVID-19 is affecting communities, including breaking down its impacts by race.

"The data we've seen so

far suggests that African Americans are dying from COVID-19 at a higher rate than whites," the campaign noted.

"Long-standing systemic inequalities are contributing to this disparity – including the fact that African Americans are more likely to be uninsured and to live in communities where they are exposed to high levels of air pollution."

Biden's campaign continued:

"African Americans also

represent an especially high percentage of the front-line workers putting themselves at greater risk to sustain the economy and keep the rest of the country safe and fed – and are less likely to have a job they can do from home, forcing them to make the difficult choice between their health and a paycheck.

"While there's a lot we don't yet know about COVID-19, we do know that equitable distribution of resources, like testing and medical equipment, can make a difference in fighting the virus. Biden be-

lieves this should be a priority, and action must be taken now."

Other highlights of the plan include rolling back Trump Administration policies that gutted fair lending and fair housing protections for homeowners and giving local elected officials the tools and resources they need to combat gentrification.

Biden said he plans to hold financial institutions accountable for discriminatory practices in the housing market, and he will restore the federal government's

power to enforce settlements against discriminatory lenders.

Additionally, the plan calls for Biden to strengthen and expand the Community Reinvestment Act to ensure that the nation's bank and non-bank financial services institutions are serving all communities.

Biden plans to eliminate local and state housing regulations that perpetuate discrimination and establish a \$100 billion Affordable Housing Fund to construct and upgrade affordable housing Providing tax in-

centives for the construction of more affordable housing in communities that need it most.

Biden also plans to create a White House "Strike Force" to partner with rural communities to help them access federal funds.

"Today, we need a comprehensive agenda for African Americans with an ambition that matches the scale of the challenge and with a recognition that race-neutral policies are not a sufficient response to race-based disparities," Biden stated.



# ESSENCE turns 50!

(Black PR Wire) For months, *ESSENCE* – the leading media, technology and commerce company serving Black women and communities – had planned an impressive schedule of activities and celebrations to launch in May 2020 in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Then, the COVID-19 global pandemic hit – with Black communities being most disproportionately impacted in the United States.

Still, demonstrating how it has been able to thrive for five decades, *ESSENCE* has continued with a relentless commitment and innovation in service to its community – providing critical content, digital and virtual offerings, a new streaming platform and more to inform, empower and inspire during these times.

That same sense of purpose compelled *ESSENCE* to shift its 50th anniversary strategy amidst the pandemic and launch its Golden Anniversary Collector's Edition issue entirely remotely for the first time ever -- paying homage to the incredible legacy of its community, while also capturing the current realities brought on by a



global pandemic.

In honor of *ESSENCE*'s milestone year, iconic supermodel Naomi Campbell partnered with *ESSENCE* to grace the magazine's first self-shot and styled cover. In Campbell's cover story, At Home With: Naomi Campbell, the supermodel prepares to celebrate her own milestone 50th birthday later this month and takes readers inside her life with an intimate self-portrait during COVID-19 social isolation.

Using an iPhone, Campbell shot and styled all the photos herself -- marking the first time she has ever photographed herself for a cover.

*ESSENCE*'s special Golden Anniversary issue also takes a look at some of the joys, pains, laughter, triumphs and stories that have impacted the Black community over the past half-century—including the novel coronavirus and its effects

See *ESSENCE*, Page 10

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# Award-winning BMF documentary narrated by Clifton Powell earns international critical acclaim

(BlackNews.com) -- Laconic Productions & Jabari Hayes have announced their release of an exciting new award-winning BMF documentary, *Miles in the Life: The Story of a BMF Drug Trafficker*, narrated by Clifton Powell.

The first BMF documentary shot from the eyes of an actual member of the BMF organization, *Miles in the Life: The Story of a BMF Drug Trafficker* provides firsthand accounts and unheard insights into the BMF organization.



Courtesy photo

Supported with narration from legendary actor Clifton Powell, this exciting documentary has achieved critical acclaim and has been watched from all corners of the world.

Supported by an all-black production company in Atlanta, Laconic Productions has been committed to portraying the BMF organization in an untold light, the documentary covers the

story of an Atlanta limousine driver, Jabari Hayes, who trafficked large quantities of cocaine across the country for the then-largest African American drug organization in the Southeast, the Black Mafia Family, or BMF.

Supported by an accomplished ensemble, including Shaun M. Mathis, an award-winning writer, director and instructor of screenwriting in Atlanta; Justin Toulon, an award-winning editor, cinematographer and producer from

Long Island, New York; Je-monique Miller, the film's co-director; legendary actor Clifton Powell; and Jabari Hayes, an ex-member of BMF, *Miles in the Life: The Story of a BMF Drug Trafficker* proves a must-watch documentary.

Recognized by international film organizations and festivals, the documentary has received international critical acclaim and won prestigious awards.

For more details, visit [www.milesinthelife.com](http://www.milesinthelife.com)

## ESSENCE, from Page 9

on the lives of Black women and the community at-large today.

Throughout this special edition, readers will be able to travel through time for some of the most inspiring, stirring and significant mo-

ments shaping and shaped by Black culture throughout *ESSENCE's* 50 years—as well as look to what's ahead, particularly post-COVID-19. *ESSENCE* is also inviting its community into the coverage and conversa-

tion by sharing their own COVID-19 stories for *ESSENCE.com*.

“Our nation and our world are enduring a crisis at a scale that our generation has never seen, but this time also reminds us of the power of our resilience, innovation and community – which

have sustained *ESSENCE* for 50 years and will help ensure it thrives for the next 50 advancing global Black culture, economic inclusion and ownership,” said Richelieu Dennis, founder and chair of Essence Ventures, parent company of *ESSENCE*.

## Cowboys Nation sounds off on the NFL Draft

Looks nice but last year's Browns proved you can't get hyped about what's on paper

- Matt Laing

That quarterback from JMU looks nice. Reminds me of ROMO!!! Pinpoint ACCURACY!!! Better than DAK

- Jason Rogers

Cowboys/ Browns. Apples/ oranges. There's a difference!

- Daniel Smithey

Now only missing the best part. Knowing how to win

- Roberto Pimentel

Man F all that this S goes on every year and don't do S at the End of the Season

- Collie Gray

Awesome draft!!! People can talk smack about Jerry but the bottom line is he is putting a great team on the field!!! Go Cowboys!!!!

- Jerry Brooks

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## McKinney starts local program to aid small businesses hit by COVID-19 shutdowns

The City of McKinney, partnering with the McKinney Community Development Corporation (MCDC), established the McKinney Strong COVID-19 Small Business and Nonprofit Grant program, offering up to \$1,500 grants to eligible McKinney-based small businesses and nonprofits

enduring economic hardships due to the pandemic.

The grant is funded by up to \$1 million dollars in unallocated MCDC promotional funds, as legislative parameters allow.

The McKinney Strong COVID-19 Small Business and Nonprofit Grant program applications dates run

from May 1-10.

The online grant application portal went at the end of day on Friday, May 1.

To meet eligibility requirements, applicants must be a small business or nonprofit in the City of McKinney which employs 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees. It must

also conduct business out of a commercial location in McKinney and demonstrate a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grant qualifications, guidelines and application link can be found online at [www.mckinneytexas.org/](http://www.mckinneytexas.org/) online.



## Congress rejects reversal of student loan forgiveness rule

By Charlene Crowell

While much of the nation grapples with multiple adjustments attributed to the coronavirus pandemic, a rare bipartisan effort in recent days united lawmakers to reject an ill-advised Department of Education push against financial fairness for student borrowers. The lawmakers' efforts were to allow a 2016 rule to stand unchanged.

Without the March 11th vote, borrowers of student loans taken out after July 1st would have little ability to secure discharge of these loans if incurred at fraudulent, mostly for-profit institutions. Hundreds of thousands of students are already deeply in debt for educations whose benefits never materialized due to misrepresentations like job placement rates, graduate incomes, and the ability to transfer credits earned.

Passing the upper chamber on a 53-41 roll call vote, 10 Republican members representing 9 states joined their Democratic colleagues to preserve the federal student loan rule known as the Borrower Defense to Repayment (BD).

"We need a policy in place that will allow defrauded students the chance to have their loan debt forgiven," noted Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, "while protecting good colleges and taxpayers."

"These for-profit colleges are the coronavirus of higher education," remarked Illinois' Senator Dick Durbin, who is leading his chamber's efforts to halt DeVos' rule.



Courtesy photo

Echoing similar sentiments was New York's, Senator Chuck Schumer.

"With this vote, the message to the Trump administration and the predatory institutions Secretary DeVos is propping up is clear: you can't cheat students and get away with it," said Schumer.

Originally adopted by the

Obama Administration, the rule was estimated to help relieve \$17 billion in federal loans for defrauded college borrowers. This sector has been characterized by its high tuition costs, as well as its targeting of distinct demographic groups — students of color, veterans, and low-incomes — that together led to large num-

bers of vulnerable students incurring unaffordable debt through a combination of private and federal loans to financially support the artificially high cost of their studies.

Many of the colleges that defrauded borrowers closed abruptly under the weight of investigations and sanctions — Corinthian Colleges, ITT Tech and Art Institutes. Other career colleges continue operating but with scant accountability from the Trump Admin-

istration and the Department of Education.

With few students actually graduating from largely for-profit career and technical institutions, debts incurred could not be repaid on the low earnings and lack of marketable skills and knowledge. According to a report by the nonprofit Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), 53% of defrauded students' debt would be forgiven under Obama-era rules. That number falls to just 3% un-

der DeVos' re-write.

By its own estimates, the Education Department expects that next year — 2021 — approximately 200,000 students will experience similar misconduct.

Even so, the Department of Education's 2019 BD version anticipates only 3 cents of every loan dollar would be canceled for defrauded students, and the institutions would repay a

See DEBT, Page 14

**Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate a small cell communications antenna at a mounted height of 30 feet on an existing 35-foot wood utility pole at the approx. vicinity of 667 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75202, Lat: [32° 46' 53.2884" N], Long: [96° 48' 25.3938" W]. 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, Trileaf Corp, Abby, [a.mckay@trileaf.com](mailto:a.mckay@trileaf.com), 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.**

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# Remember to make your Coronavirus donations count

By Rosario Méndez  
Attorney, Division of  
Consumer and Business  
Education, FTC

The Coronavirus crisis has brought out the best and worst of human nature. The best: charities across the country are stepping up and many people are donating what they can. The worst: opportunistic scammers are using fake appeals or sham charities to swindle donations from good-hearted people.

No one wants their Coro-

navirus donation to go to a scammer, so before you give, do some research.

- Search online for the charity's name and the words "scam" or "fraud."

- Review ratings of the charity by these organizations.

- Check the charity's registration status with your local charity regulator. Are they registered to take donations in your state?

Here are other things you can do to make sure a scammer is not taking advantage of your generosity:

Donate using a credit card. It's the safest way to donate. Never donate by giving out gift card numbers or using a wire transfer. If someone asks you to donate that way, you can be sure it's a scam.

Double check the name of the organization. Many fake charities try to trick you by using names similar to those of well-known organizations, but with one word different or a misspelled.

Ask lots of questions. What's the charity's web-

site, address, and mission? How much of my donation will go to the program I want to help? How many people does the charity help, and how? If helping your community is important to you, ask how the charity spends money in your area. If you get vague answers, find another way to help.

Confirm that your donation will be tax deductible, if that's important to you. Use the IRS's Tax Exempt Organization Search to check. Know that donations to individuals are not tax de-

ductible.

Don't assume a donation request on social media is legitimate just because a friend liked it or shared it. Do your own research. Call your friends or contact them offline to ask them about the

post they shared.

Visit [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity) for more tips on donating wisely. If you see a charity scam, report it at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint). Your report helps stop scammers and alert others about them.

## Dallas selected to host International Economic Development Conference

The City of Dallas will host the 2020 International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Annual Conference from Oct. 11 – 14 at The Hilton Anatole.

The three-day conference is expected to attract more than 1,500 economic developers, consultants, university-based economic developers and thought leaders from around the world to learn from the City of Dallas' effective economic development tools and strategies.

"IEDC is thrilled to be calling Dallas home for our 2020 Annual Conference, IEDC's most important event of the year," said Jeffrey A. Finkle, President & CEO of IEDC. "Dallas is a prime example of a city getting economic development right, boasting a boon in business growth, a top-notch art, culture, and entertainment scene, state of the art infrastructure, and massive innovation potential."

The city of Dallas, the economic and cultural center of the North Texas region, is home to the nation's largest arts district, notable professional sports teams the Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars, and one of the owner cities of the award-winning Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

In 2018, the Dallas region led the nation in job growth adding 116,400 new jobs

and 246 people daily. The region's vibrant economy is home to 21 Fortune 500 headquarters and innovative technology firms and start-ups.

"I'm thrilled by this international recognition that Dallas is the heart of economic development in the United States," said Dallas Mayor Michael Rawlings. "There is no more appropriate place to host this convening because of the tremendous growth we have had over the past eight years. I can't wait for our city to show the attendees all that we have to offer and all that we've accomplished."

The conference features distinguished keynote speakers, interactive sessions led by industry experts, networking events and educational tours showcasing development of the city and region. Linda McMahon, president and CEO of The Real Estate Council, will chair the Host Committee for the conference.

"Dallas is honored to host the conference and proud to showcase the city and region's vibrant and innovative successes in economic development," said Courtney Pogue, Dallas Economic Development Director. "Dallas' global access and business-friend-

ly environment continues to attract global and North American headquarters due to its unparalleled access to transportation, talented workforce, access to cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art infrastructure."

**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 5910 Central Expressway, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75206, Lat: [32-50-17.7828], Long: [-96-46-37.1238]. 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.***

**Crown Castle is proposing to expand the tower compound area by installing associated equipment on a new 10-ft by 10-ft concrete slab within a 10-ft by 18-ft proposed lease area. The existing compound is located at 4105 Broadway Blvd, Garland, Dallas County, TX 75043, Lat: [32-51-48.2], Long: [-96-36-17.4]. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Alicia at 512-519-9388 during normal business hours. Comments must be received at 2550 South IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704 ATTN: Alicia, within 30 days of the date of this publication.**

  
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## JOB FAIRS

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Jobs in science, intelligence, combat, aviation, engineering, law and more. Contact 214-406 - 3737

Prerequisites:

- GED/High School Diploma
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- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

### Ongoing Census Bureau

The Census Bureau conducts continuous surveys to supply the nation with important statistics on people, places and our economy. Local field workers know their communities best, and are instrumental in conducting surveys with residents on a variety of topics. Visit census.gov to apply.

### Ongoing City of Dallas

The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator position. Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcCfVP>.

### Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All depart-



ments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

### On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on [https://tao.ai/p/fff/\\_/dfw](https://tao.ai/p/fff/_/dfw)

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focused career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

### BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A NEW PLACE TO BELONG)

**NOTICE:** *New You, Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at [www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)*

Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website [www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org) for their details because of the coronavirus.

**May 10, 9:45 am**  
Please join us in our quiet

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

### May 13, 7 pm

You Are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer from 7 to 8 pm as we pray for the world's coronavirus.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
[www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)

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

Check "The Ship's" website for details of their ser-

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

vices until further notice because of the coronavirus.

### May 10

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship

Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

### May 13

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer

See **CHURCH**, Page 14



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**972-205-2415**

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot monopole small cell Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 668 Young Street, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75202, Lat: [32° 46' 33.87" N], Long: [96° 48' 19.9764" W]. 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, Trileaf Corp, Abby, a.mckay@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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**Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)**



## CHURCH, from Page 13

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor  
2450 K Avenue #300  
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www.visitF3c.org

### INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

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

- Malachi 3:8-10

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

#### May 8, 7 pm

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

male leadership.)

#### May 10, 10 a.m.

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

#### May 11, 7 p.m.

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

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972-372-4262  
www.Ibocchurch.org

### MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP) Making God's Word R.E.A.L. to His People.

Our mission at MOCOP is to make the Word of God R.E.A.L. (Relevant, Engaging, Authentic, Life-Changing)

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

#### May 10, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback

at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

#### May 13, 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.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD  
Senior Pastor and  
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy  
300 Chisholm Place  
Plano, TX 75075  
972-633-5511  
www.mocop.org

### SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

Connect to God through Shiloh, Grow in Christ through the study of the Word of God, Serve God through service to each other and the world.

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

#### May 10, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

#### May 11, 7 to 8 pm

Every Monday Night  
Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fel-

February on behalf of the New York Legal Assistance Group.

With both chambers of Congress having voted to preserve the 2016 BD rule, the next step is presidential action. Should President Trump sign the measure, he would reject Secretary DeVos' rule in favor of students and taxpayers. If he vetoes the resolution, Congress will face a pivotal decision on whether to override that veto.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

lowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

#### May 13, 7 pm

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
www.smbcplano.org

## Death Notices

ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com

### Taneisha Lynette Clarks

Born: 12/3/1973  
Died: 4/28/2020  
Visitation: Thursday, 5/7/2020 (1-7 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home  
Graveside Services: Friday, 5/8/2020 (1 p.m.) at Cedar Hill Memorial Cemetery  
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

### Travis Mathis

Born: 8/5/1943  
Died: 5/3/2020  
Visitation: Friday, 5/8/2020 (1-7 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home  
Graveside Services:

Monday, 5/11/2020 (9:30 a.m.) at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery  
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

### James Edward Miller

Born: 6/6/1943  
Died: 4/27/2020  
Visitation: Thursday, 5/7/2020 (1-7 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home  
Services: Friday, 5/8/2020 (11 a.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home  
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

## Special Death Announcement Program to Funeral Homes

North Dallas Gazette will publish death announcements "complimentary" on NDG's/Legacy.com Obits Page and in the Newspaper based on space availability.

Funeral Directors send your customers' Death Announcements to:  
**Vickie Richardson Steward**  
Senior Executive / NDG's Obits Department  
Cell: 682.408.2322  
Email: ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com



## DEBT, from Page 11

penny for documented misconduct. Additionally, the opportunity for loan discharge for groups of borrowers experiencing widespread mistreatment would end. If allowed to take effect, the DeVos version would require each student to individually apply and prove their claim - despite evidence of systemic or widespread mistreatment.

Other key changes identified jointly by TICAS, the National Consumer Law Center and the Century Foundation include:

- The time limit to file a borrower defense claim will be cut in half, from

the current six-year to three and only after borrowers leave school;

- Even if the school concedes it made false, or deceptive promises, borrowers filing a BD claim will still be required to show specific types of harms incurred; and

- Neither judgments against the schools or a breach of contract would be sufficient grounds for borrowers to receive loan discharge.

Two other advocacy groups, The Project on Predatory Student Lending and Public Citizens jointly filed a related lawsuit in

## Cemetery Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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We will make you a "cash offer" on your cemetery plot today! If you get voice mail-leave message phone number and information on cemetery space. We will get back to you

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**972.665.0170**



# Mothers, how special they are!



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

Today is National Prayer Day and Sunday is Mother's Day. How special is that?

The 2020 theme for National Day of Prayer is: Pray God's Glory across the Earth, AMEN!!!, especially in this day of the coronavirus disease outbreak.

Often when we were together reminiscing, as my siblings and I did from time to time, we thought about some of the "fun" things that our mother did and said to her children when we were younger; we would start laughing.

Our mother, Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus was funny, very smart, full of God's wisdom, trustworthy, loveable and the greatest mom, according to her eight children.

My siblings and I all agreed that if you would

line-up mothers from one end of the world to the next and asked us to pick the perfect mother for us, without a doubt, Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus is our choice.

God made her special for us and to us. She has been in Heaven 36 years now; and the last three of us still miss her.

Some years ago, I received the following from a friend; I am sharing this with you today in honor of my deceased mother and my daughter, Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott, who is the precious mother of three of my four grandchildren, Tyanna Donnise, David Edward and Philip Lott.

I pray that it will cause you to pause and think of some of the fun things that your mom said as you were growing up.

My Mother Taught Me...

... Consideration for Others: "Be nice and respectful because if I die, someone will want to help take care of you."

... To Have a Clean Body and Clean under Garments: "Make certain you have



Sheila Tarpley Lott with First Cousin LaKieth Eggins Smith at a family gathering.

taken a bath and have on clean under garments, you might have an accident."

... Logic: "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me." Medicine: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to freeze that way."

... To Think Ahead: "If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job!"

... ESP: "Put your sweat-

er on; don't you think that I know when you're cold?"

... To Meet a Challenge: "What were you thinking?" "Answer me when I talk to you!" "Don't talk back to me!"

... Humor: "When that

lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

... How to Become an Adult: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up." ... Genetics: "You are just like your

father!"

... My Roots: "Close that door, do you think you were born in a barn?"

... The Wisdom of Age: "Just keep living; I don't

See TARPLEY, Page 16

**NDG<sup>tv</sup>** 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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www.IBOCCHURCH.org

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# NDG Book Review: *The Compton Cowboys* could go a little further

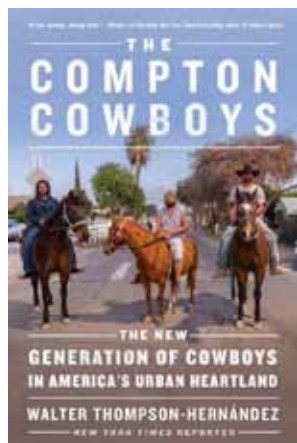
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The guy with the white hat has a nice horse.

The guy with the white hat has rugged boots with spurs like stars on his heels. He wears crisp jeans, a starched shirt, a big belt buckle, and a bigger smile. The guy in the black has all those things, too, and more: in “The Compton Cowboys” by Walter Thompson-Hernández, the guy in the black hat also has black skin.

The memory had always stuck with him.

Many years ago, back when Thompson-Hernández was a boy growing up



south of Los Angeles, being a Compton Cowboy was something lots of kids longed to be. It was that, or join a gang, and the choice was a lifeline for many, thanks to Mayisha Akbar.

Back then, after Akbar

bought a ranch in a spot that few would even look for a ranch, after she became a Muslim and changed her name, she understood that if you put a kid on a horse, it has a way of changing that kid's life. If a kid had discipline and goals and maybe his or her own horse, well, that was even better because then two lives were changed. But her riders now were mostly adults, Akbar had health issues, and she was looking to pass the ranch on to her nephew.

It was a legacy that Randy didn't take lightly.

Decades ago, when Compton was still mostly

rural, the ranch was set aside for Great Migrants who might miss their farms back home. In its heyday, it was something; today, it sported stables filled with second-chance thoroughbreds and horse-auction refugees, houses for the hands, and riding areas surrounded incongruously by C-stores and high traffic. The Compton ranch wasn't the only place in the area for black cowboys to ride, but it was respected and it was up to Randy to keep it so.

That would be a battle: alcoholism and drug abuse plagued the riders, as did gangs, prison-time,

bad pasts, and personal-ity clashes. The children's program had few takers anymore and the ranch was technically up for sale. It was running out of time and money...

“The Compton Cowboys” is a nice surprise. It's also a source of disappointment.

For sure, readers will find themselves fascinated by a ranch in South Central, and itching to learn more about it, but facts here are frustratingly sparse. Yes, author Walter Thompson-Hernández follows the subtitled promise of focusing his book on the cowboys themselves, but a ranch in

the middle of SoCal urban-ity? It seems like a gift. Truly, more backstory on it would've been nice.

Instead, readers get a lot of throat-clearing and profile-rehashing that spins in place before it zooms off in a satisfying manner. Again, yes, that's the focus but less here absolutely would have been more.

In the end, “The Compton Cowboys” is good but it may leave a lingering feeling of Not Enough. For anyone needing a who-what-why, it requires a lot of fill-in-the-blanks and it saddles a reader with too many questions.

## TARPLEY, from Page 15

have to say a word, you will understand.”

... Justice: “One day you will have kids; I hope they turn out just like YOU so that you will know what

it's like!” (This one really is called the Mother's Curse.)

Special gifts to give mothers: Your Assurance that you really do remem-

ber the things that you were taught and always will.

Give her plenty of reasons for her to feel proud of you, which you will achieve by always striving to be and to do your best.

A Sincere Apology for

any and all headaches that you caused her when that you were growing up. A Gift Certificate of Love to be redeemed anytime and as many times as she wants for anything that you can ever do for her.

Your promise that no matter how far away from home that you may travel that she is never far from your heart.

An invitation to always be a part of her life and to never feel that you have to

ask. A bunch of wishes that she has the peace, joy and happiness in her life, which she is so deserving of.

Your love forever and always. —Anna Marie Edwards.

## 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.  
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