



North Dallas Gazette

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COVID-19 showing an upswing, takes down the 2020 State Fair

The coronavirus isn't going away soon. In fact, it is showing somewhat of a resurgence in Texas, with an ever-growing number of hospitalizations and even fatalities.

On Tuesday, the state reported more than 10,000 cases in one day, the highest single day total since the beginning of the pandemic. There were 60 deaths reported as well.

Aside from the human toll, the pandemic has claimed yet another social victim; the State Fair of Texas. In an announcement on Tuesday, Fair officials said they had decided it was in the best interest of all to call off the annual tradition that brings millions of visitors to Dallas each year.

"This was an extremely tough decision. The health and safety of all involved has remained our top priority throughout the decision-making process," said Gina Norris, board chair for the State Fair of Texas. "One of the greatest aspects of the Fair is welcoming each and every person who passes through our gates with smiles and open arms.

"In the current climate of COVID-19, there is no feasible way for the Fair to put proper precautions in place while maintaining the Fair environment you know and love. While we cannot predict what the COVID-19 pandemic will look like



Big Tex will not be making his annual appearance in Dallas this year, as the State Fair of Texas Board of Directors announced this week that the State Fair will be on hiatus until 2021. (Photo: State Fair of Texas)

in September, the recent surge in positive cases is troubling for all of North Texas.

"The safest and most responsible decision we could make for all involved at this point in our 134-year history is to take a hiatus for the 2020 season."

The board said it would continue to fund its nonprofit mission of promoting agriculture and creative arts through the programs it supports. In regards to sports events which currently are slated to happen in conjunction with the State Fair, the board said the decision would be made by the schools and

athletic conferences involved.

"I love the State Fair of Texas, and I am saddened that I will not be able to take my family this year," said Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson. "But the State Fair made the safe and responsible decision. COVID-19's spread is rampant in our community, and public health must come first. We all have to do what it takes to slow this virus so we can save lives and livelihoods and get back to doing what we enjoy."

Inevitably in an election year, the virus has gone political. Criticism

See SURGE, Page 4



Protecting health care for Texans

- See Page 3



Mosquitos test positive for West Nile

- See Page 4



McDonald's under fire for alleged racism

- See Page 5



Battle brews over the return to schools

- See Page 6



A garden for community sharing in FB

- See Page 7



'Greenleaf' scores big for OWN Network

- See Page 9



Ford commits to a carbon neutral future

- See Page 10



Sister Tarpley: The tipping point

- See Page 15

Inside...

People In the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Irving / Carrollton / Plano	7
City Briefs	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-12
Career / Obituaries	13
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Review	16

See Page 2



Ahmad Moore

People In The News...



Lynn Graham



Lavette Minn

NDG Quote of the Week: "Nobody can give you freedom. Nobody can give you equality or justice or anything. If you're a man, you take it."

— Malcolm X

Ahmad Moore

HBCU Heroes hosted the first-ever esports competition dedicated to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) on Sunday, July 5 at 6 pm EDT. Ahmad Moore, 21, a junior at Fayetteville State University took home the championship title.

He entered the tournament as the number six seed (last place). Prior to participating in the tournament, Moore did not own an Xbox gaming console; HBCU Heroes purchased one for him to compete. Ahmad led his Lakers to a 75-53 win over Chandler



Craddock's Brooklyn Nets. Craddock is a sophomore at Langston University. Moore secured the crown with his mother, LaEisia Lattacker, proudly cheering him on. Prior to this win,

Moore had never played in an organized esports competition. The play-by-play action was called by WNBA's Renee Montgomery (Atlanta Dream) and Sportscaster Larry Ridley.

Ahmad Moore was recently crowned Mr. Fayetteville State University and is majoring in communications and pre-law. He plans to attend law school after graduation.

His winning purse included \$500 and a Dell computer. When asked what he plans to do with his prize money, Ahmad replied, "I plan to help elementary students in Fayetteville buy devices, so

they will have the same opportunity HBCU Heroes gave me. I could not have had this chance without their generosity, and I want to pay it forward."

HBCU Heroes inaugural tournament was streamed on Twitch and their website (hbcuheroes.org). The evening's activities included four NBA 2K20 games. In addition to Moore and Craddock, students from Hampton University, Johnson C. Smith University and Southern University also competed. The program backdrop supported the release of the JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE documentary, about

the Civil Rights Icon and Georgia Congressman (in theaters and on-demand July 3).

The event was made possible by sponsorships from J.P. Morgan Chase and Dell, as well as a grant from The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

The evolution of esports dates back to 1972, when the first organized competition took place at Stanford University. The grand prize for that event was year's subscription to *Rolling Stone* magazine.

The concept grew with the video game industry itself, and in the early 90s, video games began featur-

ing more player-on-player competition, instead of determining winners by the use of a high score.

As broadband internet opened up the world of online head-to-head competition, tournaments became bigger and the stakes got higher. When the 1997 Asian financial crisis hit, the growth of esports competition exploded in South Korea. An esports association is now an official arm of the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The popularity of the genre spread worldwide, and the first "Esports Arena" was opened in California in 2015.

Lynn Graham

(Black PR Wire) DENVER — ClickUrban, LLC, is bridging the gap between black businesses and black consumers. The company has created a dynamic platform that allows black-owned enterprises to streamline their marketing strategies and promote their businesses. The online directory can be used by Doctors, Attorneys, Realtors, Banks, Law Offices, Restaurants, Grocery stores, Mechanic shops, Sports Bars/Clubs, Cultural Bookstores, fashion boutiques, Barber/Beauty Salons, Educators, Authors and much



more. The platform is a cross between Angies List, Groupon and Yelp. Users can access the platform at www.theclickurban.com and add businesses directly.

Any local business can get a free listing on ClickUr-

ban under its Basic package with a one-time setup fee of \$4.95. The features include searchable listing (third in search results), up to three categories to choose from, website link, phone number and ability to publish articles/blog.

Those who want more can go for the Featured package \$9.99 month / \$99.99 year, or the Premium package \$29.99 month / \$199.99 year, which is full power with features included like featured home page listing, event listings, classified ads, property listings, reviews, photo gallery and videos, coupons, social media listings, job listings, no ads and

more.

It's no secret that there is a stigma associated with African-American products and services offered by people of color. They are considered low quality and less valuable when compared with products made by another race. Despite the fact that this is not accurate, the thinking persists both within the African-American community and across all races.

Visitors to ClickUrban can quickly locate a local business by location or specialty. Buyers can also compare these local services with each other, check their quotes, read reviews and check out their complete

business profiles.

"Once you find local businesses that you like, contact them to get more information. Our members are always happy to hear from you!" says Lynn Graham.

ClickUrban was created to help dispel this stigma. While there are several black business directories in the marketplace, ClickUrban's main focus is on approving businesses with a reputation for producing and offering high quality products and services.

The mastermind behind the platform, Lynn Graham, said: "It is important not to forget the pride and opportunity that Black Wall Street

awarded African Americans. We encourage all people, but especially black people of the United States, to invest into our own businesses to increase the longevity and influence within our community."

ClickUrban Directory is only the tip of the iceberg. The company is also striving to become the most reliable and trusted source for black business listings by creating a robust and elite platform to empower black business owners and connect consumers to black-owned businesses.

For more information, please visit: www.theclickurban.com

Lavette Minn

(BlackNews.com) Lavette Minn is known as a "The Family Brand Educator," with years of experience in helping many people and businesses reach their full potentials by harnessing universal laws.

In line with her goal of sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience with as many people as possible, Lavette Minn recently transitioned her company, The Family Brand Movement, LLC into a Brand Development Agency to teach the art of building a brand with Attraction Marketing. Her objective with the agency is to achieve increased sales by leveraging the power of attraction



marketing and the concept of universal laws.

The journey to self-discovery seems to have become longer than it used to be before now. This can be largely attributed to the increasing number of factors that easily influence people's thoughts and actions. Consequently, people

tend to find it challenging to break out of the shell and express themselves as they want. Unfortunately, the available so-called motivational pieces do not look to harness natural phenomenon like universal laws to help people position themselves and their businesses for greatness. This is where Lavette seems to have been able to change the narrative over the years as a public speaker and author.

The agency offers a wide range of services including Brand Audit Calls for brand positioning and Business Master Planning for entrepreneurs that want to take their business to another level. The agency also offers all-in-one brand development that includes effec-

tive marketing, positioning, brand imaging, competitive awareness, and pricing strategies.

Lavette has become increasingly popular in recent times as The Family Brand Educator with accolades coming from different quarters. "I highly recommend Lavette to anyone looking to develop their brand sustainably. She uses universal laws to guide you, and I am very happy with her methodology and approach," said Trish Renee, one of her clients.

For more information about Lavette Minn and her range of solutions, please visit LavetteMinn.com or FamilyBrandEducator.com.

Also, follow her on Facebook and Instagram.

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We must protect North Texans' health care during this pandemic

By Colin Allred
U.S. Representative (TX-32)

As a North Texan, born and raised by a single mother who was a Dallas public school teacher, I know how hard things can be for working families and how this crisis has made things worse for many. During this crisis, many North Texans are worried about contracting COVID-19 and adding additional medical bills to the already mounting list of worries caused by this pandemic.

As the representative of the 32nd Congressional District of Texas, I've met North Texans from all walks of life, and too often I hear that access to quality, affordable health care is one of their top issues.

Texas currently has the highest uninsured rate in the country. In Dallas County, one out of four residents do not have health insurance. In addition, our state has not expanded Medicaid coverage, leaving more than one million Texans without the care they need.

Recent studies have also shown that Black people have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, due to lack of access to quality, affordable

care and pre-existing conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes. In a state where the daily amount of coronavirus infections continues to break records, it is now more important than ever that we protect North Texans' health care and increase access to quality, affordable care.

On my first day in Congress, I led the effort in the House of Representatives against a Texas lawsuit seeking to undermine the Affordable Care Act. I have also pushed for several pieces of legislation to lower prescription drug costs and protect folks with pre-existing conditions.

pre-existing conditions, like heart disease, diabetes or COVID-19.

Additionally, the bill includes a measure similar to one led by Fort Worth Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33) that I cosponsored, incentivizing states like Texas to expand Medicaid coverage to more low-income and working families. This would help combat health disparities faced among Black communities and other vulnerable populations. This bill is a good step toward fixing our system's many issues, and I hope both the Administration and the Senate will put aside partisan politics, end the attacks on the Affordable Care Act, and work with us to bring the American people the relief they need.

If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, nearly a million more Texans will lose their healthcare. In a state fighting COVID-19 with an already high number of uninsured people, that may be devastating. It's time we worked together to give North Texans peace of mind by lowering costs and expanding access to quality, affordable health care, as we navigate this time of uncertainty together.

“Unfortunately, in the midst of the worst public health crisis in a generation, the Trump Administration is engaging in a cynical attempt in federal court to tear down the Affordable Care Act...”

Unfortunately, in the midst of the worst public health crisis in a generation, the Trump Administration is engaging in a cynical attempt in federal court to tear down the Affordable Care Act, and with it, protections for those with pre-existing conditions and care for millions of families. During this time of crisis, we need more access to health care, not less. That is why I have been working hard to combat this Administration's actions and protect North Texans' health care.

I recently joined my colleagues to introduce the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act and call on the Administration to end its attacks on American families and their health care. The bill, which passed the House, would address the many challenges of our health care system and improve the Affordable Care Act. It would lower costs across the board and negotiate lower drug prices. It would also crack down on junk plans and strengthen protections for people with

Remembering the five officers lost in 2016

This week marks an ugly moment in the history of Dallas which happened not long ago at all. In stark contrast to the recent spate of protests against police brutality, it was four years ago this week that Dallas lost five police officers to gun violence during a similar march locally.

State Representative Carl Sherman (D-109) commented Tuesday on the anniversary of the tragic Dallas Police ambush in Dallas on July 7, 2016.

Five officers were killed, and nine officers and two

civilians injured on this day in 2016 in the Dallas police ambush, which was the deadliest attack on police officers since September 11.

“I would like to take this day to remember these fallen officers who were killed in the line of duty,” Rep. Sherman said.

Most of the victims were ambushed during the protests. These victims were DPD Senior Cpl. Lorne Ahrens who had been with the department since 2002, DPD Officer Michael Krol, 40, who had been with the

department since 2007, DPD Sgt. Michael Smith, 55, who had been with the department since 1989, DPD Officer Patricio “Patrick” Zamarripa, 32, who had been with the department since 2011 and DART Officer Brent Thompson, 43, who had been with the department since 2009 and was the first DART officer to be killed in the line of duty since the department began in 1989.

“May this tragic event never be forgotten and a reminder to strive to change our culture and contrition

in this nation,” Rep. Sherman added.

Sherman concluded “Texas leads the nation in the number of police officer fatalities in the line of duty in 2019. Policing methods need to be reimagined to better protect officers and to restore faith in law enforcement.

“May these devastating events be eradicated and may our country come together in a positive manner to determine solutions to end these types of tragedies.”

“A Fitting Memorial” North Dallas Gazette now offers Obituaries and Death Notices specific to our community. Contact ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com for more info.
NDG Obituaries

DCHHS confirms mosquito samples test positive for West Nile Virus

Dallas County Health and Human Services' (DCHHS) laboratory confirmed mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus. The mosquito traps were collected from the 75211; 75241; 75243 zip codes of Dallas additionally from the 75180.



Mosquitos carrying the West Nile Virus have been identified in traps in Dallas. (Photo: Erop Kamelev / Unsplash)

Residents should remain inside during the time sprayers are in the area. Spraying will not be conducted in the event of wind speeds more than 10 mph or inclement weather. A detailed map of the spray area can be viewed at: www.dallas.leateamapps.com/PublicMap/

Residents should use the 4Ds to reduce exposure to mosquitoes:

- DEET All day, Every day: Whenever outside, use insect repellents that have the active ingredient DEET or other EPA-registered repellents and always follow

label instructions.

- Dress: Wear long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.

- Drain: Drain or treat all standing water in and around your home or workplace where mosquitoes could lay eggs.

- All Day long: Dawn, Day and Dusk -Limit your time outdoors mosquitos are active anytime day or night.

DCHHS encourages residents in affected areas to be a part of the solution by

eliminating insect breeding areas and larvae before they develop into adult, flying mosquitoes. Standing water can be treated with EPA-approved larvicides that are available for retail purchase. Larvicides are products used to kill immature mosquitoes before they become adults. Larvicides are applied directly to water sources that hold mosquito eggs, larvae or pupae. When used consistently, larvicides can help reduce the overall mosquito bur-

den by limiting the number of mosquitoes that are produced, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

For more information visit the DCHHS website at www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/westnile.php

In conjunction with Dallas County municipalities, mosquito abatement teams are responding by treating impacted areas. DCHHS scheduled ground spraying on Tuesday and Wednesday in the 75180 zip code area of Balch Springs, weather permitting.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), West Nile Virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the United States. The virus is present throughout mosquito season, which starts in the summer and ends in the fall.

Currently, there is no

vaccine to prevent the virus, nor anti-viral medications to treat it. Over the counter pain relievers and fever reducers can be used to help alleviate symptoms. Hospitalization may be required in severe cases.

The CDC notes however, that most of the people who will become infected with the virus will not feel sick. Approximately 20 percent will develop a fever and other symptoms.

One out of around 150 of those infected will develop a serious illness which is sometime fatal. Recovery in the more serious cases may take weeks or even

months.

Symptoms of severe illness include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis.

Severe illness can occur in people of any age; however, people over 60 years of age are at greater risk. People with certain medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and people who have received organ transplants, are also at greater risk.

SURGE, from Page 1

of the state government and its handling of the pandemic has been high among political opponents.

"Republican Governor Abbott's failed coronavirus response has led to a record surge in new infections and deaths in Texas," said Texas Democratic Party Communications Director Abhi Rahman. "It didn't have to be this bad. From day one of this crisis, Abbott has undermined, hid, and outright refused to listen to science or doctors. There were over 10,000 new cases today, 60 Texans who died today, and at least 2.7 million Texans who remain unemployed. This is because Greg Abbott put the health and economic well-being of our state last. Texans continue to suffer as a result."

On the same day, Abbott was opening a new "Surge Testing Site" in the Rio Grand Valley. He has acknowledged the increase in cases, but says measures developed by his team are

up to he task.

"COVID-19 is now spreading at an unacceptable rate in the state of Texas, and it must be corralled," said Abbott. "We have several strategies to reduce the spread without shutting Texas back down, but it is up to all of us to do our part to protect ourselves and others. We need all Texans to follow the safety protocols developed by our team of medical experts, including staying home if you are sick or at risk, sanitizing your hands, social distancing, and wearing face coverings or masks. COVID-19 hasn't gone away, but neither has our ability to slow the spread of it. Texans have shown that we don't have to choose between jobs and health—we can have both. We can protect lives while also restoring livelihoods. Together, we will keep Texans safe and we will keep our state open for business."

Meanwhile, Texas resi-

dents are encouraged to get tested, especially if they show symptoms or are in high risk categories. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) is advising those seeking tests to avoid incurring unnecessary costs.

"If your doctor requests the test as medically necessary, you shouldn't be charged for it. That's federal law," the TDI noted.

"To reduce your chances of facing extra costs: call your primary care doctor before getting tested. Get your doctor's testing order and recommended testing site. The order makes the test possible at no cost to you.

"Ask the testing site if it has any charges or fees not covered by insurance.

"Do not authorize non-COVID tests at the same time unless your doctor orders them.

"Unless it's a medical emergency, avoid hospital or free-standing emergency rooms, which usually charge more.

"If you aren't pay-

ing with insurance, shop around on the web or by phone to compare testing charges and possible add-on fees.

"If you get a bill related to a COVID test, call your health plan to find out why. If you can't resolve the issue with your plan, call the TDI Help Line at 1-800-252-3439."

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Big Mac racism at McDonald's

By Whitney Gresham and Trevor W. Coleman II
The Michigan Chronicle



A lawsuit by two former vice presidents of the McDonald's chain alleges a pattern of racial slurs, insults and a climate of corporate indifference. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

(NNPA) For more than 50 years, the McDonald's Corporation took pride in branding itself as a socially conscious corporation particularly interested in doing business in abandoned and long-ignored Black communities while embracing racial diversity as a critical component of its corporate ethos.

It is a philosophy that helped create a popular narrative and also focus on story that the Chicago-based company was a progressive business and a place where African Americans could grow, find mentors, promotions and economic opportunity.

However, that image was shattered this year in an explosive lawsuit brought by two African American female executives who claim

that under new leadership the company not only deliberately divested from the Black community and businesses, but hurled racist, sexist insults at them including referring to the employees as "niggers" and "angry Black women."

Adding further injury to the grotesque insults, the women also claimed when they spoke up about such treatment they were demoted, and the perpetrators

were promoted. The shocking accusations have rocked the fast food industry especially since McDonald's has long projected itself as a leader in diversity initiatives and as an aggressive recruiter and developer of African American talent and entrepreneurs.

But Domineca Neal and Vicki Guster-Hines, former vice presidents of the fast food chain, allege the discrimination and harassment

started and progressive programs came to a screeching halt following a change in corporate leadership at McDonald's in 2015. In their suit they said the new regime engaged in systemic racist and discriminatory behavior and civil rights abuses against them and other Black executives.

Among the allegations were that one top white male executive repeatedly referred to them as "angry Black women" and another who earlier had referred to Black employees as "niggers" shockingly being promoted rather than disciplined following a complaint filed against him for such racially abusive language.

In an exclusive interview with the Michigan Chronicle, Neal, a native Detroit, said the harassment began shortly after the new CEO,

See BIG MAC, Page 16

Help Identify Animal Cruelty Suspect



On July 6, 2020, at approximately 8:00 a.m., a citizen found a brindle Pitbull type dog in the 2300 block of Harding Street. The dog was found with severe, life threatening injuries caused by an arrow type object. The Dallas Police Department is requesting any witnesses that saw who injured the dog to please contact Crime Stoppers at 1(877)373-TIPS or Detective H. Tamez, #8518, Animal Cruelty Unit at 214-671-0115. (Photo: Dallas PD)

Former executive director of Tyler non-profit guilty of embezzling funds from disabled clients

TYLER – A 33-year-old Shreveport, Louisiana woman has pleaded guilty to embezzling over \$500,000 from an East Texas non-profit organization in the Eastern District of Texas, announced U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Cox on July 7.

Jessica Rottab pleaded guilty today to a one-count criminal information charging her with federal program theft before U.S. Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

According to information presented in court, from about June 24, 2017 through September of 2018, Rottab, who was residing in Flint, Texas at the time, worked as the Interim Executive Director of the East Texas Center for Independent Living (ETCIL) in Tyler, Texas. ETCIL is a non-profit corporation with a mission of helping people with disabilities achieve greater independence, self-

sufficiency, and full participation in their communities.

ETCIL receives benefits in excess of \$10,000.00 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services every year. From Sep. 9, 2017 through July 23, 2018 ETCIL maintained an operating checking account at Southside Bank in Tyler, Texas. During this time, Rottab made 369 unauthorized cash withdrawals for her personal financial benefit, totaling \$118,224.24. From June 24, 2017 and continuing until Sep. 11, 2018 by various additional means, such as using ETCIL's corporate credit card for unauthorized expenditures for her personal financial benefit, Rottab embezzled a total of \$526,690.83 from ETCIL.

"This case exemplifies the great results we can achieve when we bring together our federal and state and investigative re-

sources," said U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Cox. "The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Texas will continue to aggressively prosecute those who abuse their position of trust to steal from those who receive public assistance."

Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Field Office, Gerardo Gomez, commended the cooperative efforts of our law enforcement partners in the successful resolution of this investigation. "The IRS enforces the nation's tax laws, but also takes particular interest in financial schemes that victimize our most vulnerable citizens and taxpayers. In those instances be assured IRS-CI will pursue any and all legal avenues in pursuit of justice."

Under federal statutes, Rottab faces up to 10 years in federal prison at sentencing. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed

by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be

scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office. Rottab has agreed to pay restitution of \$526,690.83 to ETCIL and their disabled clients.

This case was investigat-

ed by the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations Division, Tyler Office, the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, Tyler Office and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Noble.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2104	Winning Millions - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.08	\$50	7/16/20	1/12/21
2180	Bonus 7 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.39	\$5	7/17/20	1/13/21
2187	Diamond Dollars - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$10	7/18/20	1/14/21
2073	777 - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25	\$10	7/20/20	1/16/21
1828	Texas Loteria - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.96	\$3	7/30/20	1/26/21
2200	Quick 7s - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.85	\$1	8/19/20	2/15/21
2198	Hearts - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.65	\$2	8/19/20	2/15/21
2201	\$50,000 Poker - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.73	\$5	8/19/20	2/15/21
2082	Super Crossword - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	8/19/20	2/15/21
2074	Super Loteria - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.77	\$5	8/19/20	2/15/21
2144	Million Dollar Loteria - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.31	\$20	8/19/20	2/15/21

Tlottery.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, mcpgambling.org © 2020 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY



School reopening plans getting pushback from teachers

On Tuesday the Texas Education Agency (TEA) released a set of guidelines for reopening public schools in the fall; guidelines which include in-school learning. While there is room for parents to opt for remote instruction, the guidelines are getting pushback from educators saying it will lead to an unsafe environment.

“Both as Commissioner and as a public school parent, my number one priority is the health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff,” said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. “That is why the guidance laid out today will provide flexibility to both parents and districts to make decisions based on the ever-changing conditions of this public health crisis. The state is and remains committed to providing a high-quality education to all Texas students, while ensuring the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, and families.”

In addition to giving



Throughout the country, and around the world, classrooms have sat empty for months. Efforts to restart schools are being met with resistance by teachers and parents. (Photo: Felipe Schiarolli / Unsplash)

parents the option of in-school or remote learning, the guidelines addressed a wide variety of other issues. It called for the screening of students and teachers coming back to campus, the requirement of masks while on campus and leaving room for forthcoming executive orders. The release also conveyed the state’s commitment to providing the necessary personal protective equipment, teacher training and resources for bridging the “digital divide” in homes

where remote access is currently a challenge.

But the state’s commitment doesn’t sit well with the members of Texas AFT, the state’s affiliate of the national American Federation of Teachers. In a follow-up statement, Texas AFT leaders said the state was acting “intentionally and recklessly with gross negligence” under the current plan.

“Previously we said, ‘Hell No!’ to Mike Morath and TEA about the necessity of returning students

and teachers to campuses,” said Texas AFT President Zeph Capo. “The claim that it would be safe didn’t jive with what school employees and parents know about the dangers of COVID-19. That was before Texas started seeing a dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases.

“Much of the guidance released by TEA today appears to ignore the reality of the record number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations across the state. We are actually one of the nation’s worst “hot-spot” states, and yet TEA continues to stress the supposed dire need to get kids clustered together again in often overcrowded school buildings. It is simply not worth the enormous risk of harm to our children and school employees.

“TEA also needs to abandon, or at least put into context, its message that returning to campuses at this point will be safe because “relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospital-

ized or have severe symptoms.” The problem with this stance is that it still puts adults—our school employees, parents, and the overall community at significant risk—while also ignoring the enormity of the numbers of students and adults returning to school. Low percentages still can turn into big numbers in these situations, as was seen recently with the rapid spread resulting in hundreds of new cases reported in Texas daycare centers in late June.”

The frustration between educators and the government officials overseeing their operation is not specific to Texas. Following a roundtable discussion with President Donald J. Trump on Wednesday, National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia complained that safety concerns were not being met by administration officials. She also accused the administration of using the pandemic to try to push a voucher system and further an effort to

privatize education.

“If Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos have proven anything over the past four years, it’s that they do not care about students,” Garcia said. “They have zero credibility for how to best support students, and how to re-open classrooms safely.

“I dare Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos to sit in that classroom where the kids don’t have what they need to be safe, and the school doesn’t have enough money to provide a hotspot or a device for them because of the Senate’s failure to finish their job.

“Where they, and educators, don’t have the masks and PPE they need. Where they can’t socially distance because there are 40 kids in the class. And then see how they feel about cavalierly demanding that schools reopen in an unsafe manner. America must listen to the health experts on when to reopen schools and to educators on how to return to in-person instruction.”

Approved Dallas ISD 2020–2021 budget includes raises for staff

(DISD) The Board of Trustees has approved \$61.2 million in salary increases for eligible employees for the 2020-2021 school year. The raises are possible through leveraging the district’s strategic initiative funds and the HB3 Teacher Incentive Allotment, to which the district has access due to the TEI evaluation system currently in use.

Eligible employees who are not under an excellence initiative will receive a 2% increase based on the midpoint of their salary range. Employees who are part of an excellence initiative will receive the greater of a change in excellence initiative compensation level or a defined dollar amount increase. More information regarding each group can



Dallas ISD

be found below.

In addition to salary increases, the Board of Trustees also approved the administration’s recommendation to update the introductory scale for teachers. A novice teacher with zero years of experience would start at a minimum salary \$56,500. The starting salary would range up

to \$63,400 for experienced teachers new to Dallas ISD. The recommendation was made to support the recruitment of high-quality candidates in teaching vacancies. **Excellence Initiative Staff**

1) Teacher Compensation

- Returning 2020-2021 teachers with a valid TEI Effectiveness Level will re-

ceive the greater of: 2020-2021 TEI Compensation Level OR, 2% of effectiveness level board-approved Increase

- Returning 2020-2021 teachers without an effectiveness level will receive the greater of: Associated salary on the 2020-2021 New Hire Schedule or, Board-approved Increase

- No teacher’s salary will decrease in 2020-2021.

2) Principal, Assistant Principal, and Executive Director EDEI Compensation

- Returning campus administrators will carry over their 2019-2020 effectiveness level.

- Principals and executive directors will receive the greater of the change in the compensation level value or a \$3,000 flat rate

increase.

- Assistant principals will receive the greater of the change in compensation level value or a \$1,500 flat rate increase.

- For new scales for principals and assistant principals see the 2020-2021 compensation handbook.

Excellence initiative employees can expect to see the salary change in their Oct. 15 paychecks.

The projected total cost of the excellence initiative salary increases is \$36 million, which amounts to an average projected salary increase of 4.3% for classroom teachers. In addition, through the Teacher Incentive Allotment, eligible teachers also will earn High-Priority and ACE campus stipends, bringing the total cost to \$44 mil-

lion in salary and stipend increases for teachers.

Non-Excellence Initiative Staff

Eligible staff will receive a 2% increase based on the midpoint and up to the maximum of their salary range. Employees whose current salary is above the maximum of the salary range will receive the board-approved increase in the form of an over-the-max stipend that will be paid throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Non-excellence initiative employees can expect to see salary changes in their Sept. 15 paychecks.

Eligible support staff whose current salary is less than \$50,000 will receive a one-time stipend of \$750. Employees can expect to see the stipend reflected in their November paychecks.



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Farmers Branch Community Garden is a golden example of sharing

By Fatema Biviji
Special to NDG

The excitement in Zoher Bharmal's voice is undeniable when he describes what it's like to be a gardener at the Farmers Branch Community Garden. Tending to their plot has become a family activity that has yielded much more than just fruit and vegetables. In fact, the Community Garden has brought this family nourishment of the mind, soul, and body.

After many months of encouragement from Zoher to visit the Community Garden, I was finally able to make the trek from Irving. The Garden, located at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, did not disappoint!

Zoher began the tour at the Compost Making Station. He explained that gardeners pitch in to perform the various tasks needed for successful gardening. His daughter Radhiya began trimming down some of the longer stalks in the



Putting in time at the Farmers Branch Community Garden can be rewarding, educational and nutritious all at the same time. (Courtesy photo)

Compost Bin, while Zoher sifted some of the available soil and compost mixture to remove rocks and clay. The sight of earthworms was a delight as he pointed out that they are purposefully added to the mix.

After saying hello to fellow community gardener Judith, we moved along with our compost in a wheelbarrow towards the Bharmal family's plot. I was already impressed by the availability of equip-

ment, wheelbarrows, and compost, but seeing a water hose neatly coiled on a stand at each plot was just awe-inspiring!

It was here that Zoher revealed how he learned the many tips he has picked up over the years since he became a community gardener. That is, Farmers Branch Landscape Manager and passionate gardener, Pam Smith, can be found here on most Saturday mornings ready to share advice. Zoher

has learned a lot from Ms. Smith and fellow gardeners.

He shows Radhiya and me how to carefully flood the soil around his squash plant so that the dreaded squash bugs can be coaxed out. If left unchecked, they can wreak havoc on gardens. Tiny white eggs on leaves are also a sign of infestation, but he didn't find any this day.

As we move on towards the fruit trees that belong to the City of Farmers Branch, Zoher compliments fellow gardeners on their successful crop of shiny, huge tomatoes that can be seen glistening from afar. All types of fruit from peaches, to berries, to figs can be found here.

One of the most satisfying aspects of community gardening, according to Zoher, is harvesting excess produce and sharing it with Metrocrest Services. The organization provides nutritious food to those who need it. And so the act of giving comes back full cir-

cle to bring great joy to the Bharmal family.

Landscape Manager Pam Smith describes this Community Gardening experience best:

"The Farmers Branch Community Garden is a wonderful collaboration between the Gardeners, the City, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church and Metrocrest Services. It requires passion from all participants and a willingness to share.

- Share the land for the garden.

- Share time and energy to grow and harvest produce.

- Share personnel and fiscal resources to oversee and fund the garden.

- Share an outlet to distribute the produce.

The blessing is that each group and participant only has to share their particular gift and together it makes up the Community Garden.

Families like the Zohers share their gifts so freely. The Zohers work the garden, share monetary gifts

and share the garden with outside groups. Others' gifts may not be as obvious. Another person's gift might be collecting coffee grounds to create soil building compost.

The important thing is to accept all gifts with thanksgiving and the garden will give with abundance... sometime even with produce! This past week's harvest yielded over 130 lbs of produce to the food bank!"

The Bharmal family's experience here is a great example of how community projects benefit so many people in so many ways. I am inspired by how much the gardeners learn from each other and share with each other - all while growing healthy food to eat. Before I go, Zoher hands me some green beans and radishes from his plot, and so I add them to the list of things I have already gained from this trip to the Farmers Branch Community Garden.



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Dallas

The City of Dallas will host a virtual public meeting from 6-7 p.m. on the **White Rock Lake Dredging Feasibility Study**. City staff and the consultant will provide a brief recap of previous meetings, provide the findings of the study, discuss dredging scenarios and associated costs, discuss the sediment sampling analysis results, and accept public input and address questions. Join the Zoom Meeting at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc4pgc5m> Meeting ID: 856 1611 6777 Password: 154533.

Progress continues in

the effort to make one of Texas' busiest corridors easier for owners of zero-emissions vehicles to travel. The **Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition** is developing a ZEV deployment plan along IH 45 from Dallas to Houston that will determine key locations for both hydrogen refueling and electric vehicle charging stations.

Stakeholders are needed to support both plan elements — battery electric vehicle charging and fuel cell electric vehicle fueling. Anyone interested in becoming a stakeholder is invited to take a short sur-

vey at www.dfwcleancities.org/altfuelcorridors.

Irving

Join the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the North Texas Commission, in hosting the **2020 State of Dallas County** with Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins for an annual update on challenges, growth opportunities and the economic outlook of Dallas County. The conversation will be moderated by Dale Hansen, WFAA Sports Anchor.

While in the past, we have hosted the State of Dallas

County in person, this year, in compliance with the State of Texas and Dallas County orders from public health officials, the program will be held virtually on August 25, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For questions on the Virtual 2020 State of Dallas County or to learn more about our Sponsorship opportunities, please contact Portia Washington at pwashington@irvingchamber.com or call (214) 217-8484.

Plano

Share input on two proposed zoning districts for

Plano.

The **Neighborhood Business Design (NBD) and Residential Community Design (RCD) districts** create walkable areas with low-rise buildings and appropriate green space. These districts also implement the Envision Oak Point plan and will guide the Plano Event Center zoning request.

Key details of the districts are:

- NBD provides a mix of neighborhood-friendly retail and service uses.

- RCD features small-lot housing options, offering additional housing variety

in-between larger single-family lots and multifamily.

- These districts complement one another and protect the unique character of the northeast portion of Plano, including established neighborhoods.

- Plano Event Center is expected to be the first site to use these districts.

Provide input at the district public hearings and Plano Event Center zoning case: Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on Monday, July 20 ay 7 p.m. Comments can also be emailed to kendrac@plano.gov by noon on July 20.

Irving officers welcome home preschooler after frightening accident

First responders in Irving got a much-appreciated invite from the family of a young girl who was the subject of a recent emergency call.

On March 16, 2020 at 10:30 p.m. Irving officers were dispatched to an unconscious person call where dispatch notified officers that 4 year-old, Sarai

Tirado, was unconscious and not breathing. The dresser and television in Sarai's room fell over and crushed her when she was climbing up the front of the

dresser to change the TV channel. Officer Long and Officer Vanderveer arrived on scene and immediately began providing CPR until Irving Fire arrived. Due to the efforts of these officers and fire personnel they were able to prolong Sarai's life and get her to the hospital. Sarai has been in the

hospital recovering since March 16. Sarai still has a long road to recovery, but has been improving, and got released from the hospital on Tuesday, June 30.

The first responders welcomed her home with a parade on Tuesday.

"After speaking to Sarai's mom we are using

this event to educate parents about how easy it is for a furniture to fall over on a child, and the need to secure these type items to the wall," the department said in a memo. "Sarai also wanted to thank and honor the officer and fire personnel who helped save her life."



Courtesy photo

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—Col. Kim Olson, USAF Ret., Democrat for Congress

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Greenleaf: OWN Network hit is the number one cable telecast for women 25-54

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D.
NNPA Entertainment
and Culture Editor

The fifth and final season premiere of OWN's hit megachurch drama "Greenleaf" (6/23/20) delivered 1.9 million viewers and ranked as Tuesday night's #1 cable telecast in OWN's key demographic of women 25-54, which is up +2% from last season's premiere. The acclaimed drama from Lionsgate, award-winning writer/executive producer Craig Wright ("Lost," "Six Feet Under"), and executive producers Clement Virgo ("Empire"), Kriss Turner Towner ("Black Monday"), and Oprah Winfrey was also the night's #1 telecast across all broadcast and cable for African-American women.

Greenleaf stars Merle Dandridge as Grace Greenleaf; Keith David as Bishop James Greenleaf; Lynn Whitfield as Lady Mae Greenleaf; Kim Haw-



OWN Network

thorne as Kerissa Greenleaf; Lamman Rucker as Jacob Greenleaf; and Deborah Joy Winans as Charity Greenleaf-Satterjee.

In addition, the season premiere of "Greenleaf" ranked as the #1 most social scripted series across all of broadcast and cable, including Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, on Tuesday night (non-sports).

OWN was Tuesday night's #2 cable network among women 25-54 with "Greenleaf" the #1 cable telecast in the key demo. OWN was Tuesday night's

#1 network on all of television, including broadcast and cable, for African American women and total viewers.

Currently, OWN has four of the Top 20 original scripted series ("The Haves and the Have Nots," "Greenleaf," "If Loving You Is Wrong," "Cherish the Day") on ad-supported

cable among women 25-54, which is more than any other network.

In the second episode of the fifth and final season of "Greenleaf" tomorrow night (Tuesday June 30 at 9:00 p.m. ET/PT), Noah (Benjamin Patterson) returns to Memphis to help Grace (Merle Dandridge) with A.J. (Jacob Gibson),

offering her stability in a world that's upside-down and spinning out of her control. Bishop (Keith David) and Lady Mae (Lynn Whitfield) take a walk through their history when they visit Mavis's club as a potential venue for their future. Jacob (Lamman Rucker) continues to dig into the past and uncovers a shocking revelation about the history of the Greenleaf family home.

Source: *The Nielsen Company; Nielsen Social Content Ratings. Ranked by total interactions.*

"Greenleaf" has garnered ten NAACP Image Award nominations, including wins for Outstanding Drama Series in 2020, and Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series in 2019 and 2020 (Lynn Whit-

field). The "Greenleaf" Soundtrack Volume Two was named Outstanding Gospel/Christian Album (Traditional or Contemporary) by the NAACP Image Awards in 2018. The series has also been recognized by the Alliance for Women in Media's Gracie Allen Awards and by the Black Reel Awards for Television.

"Greenleaf" is produced for OWN by Lionsgate in association with Harpo Films and Pine City. Executive producers are Oprah Winfrey, Craig Wright, Kriss Turner Towner, and Clement Virgo.

A "Greenleaf" spinoff, currently in development with Lionsgate, was announced in May 2020.

Viewers can now catch up on the show's complete four seasons on Netflix.

NFL will play Black National Anthem at games

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Correspondent

When Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the playing of the national anthem to bring awareness to social and other injustices faced regularly by Black and Brown individuals in America, the National Football League, President Donald Trump, and others wrongly associated the quarterback's actions as a protest against the U.S. flag and the nation's military.

In the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd,

protests and demonstrations have awakened America and most of the world to the plight of African Americans who long have suffered injustice, inequality, and an overall lack of understanding.

The NFL remains at the forefront of the new understanding, and now they've taken that knowledge, and, in an unprecedented decision, the league announced it would play Lift Every Voice and Sing – the Black National Anthem – before

See NFL, Page 10

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New release from Joshua Crumbly is an homage to mixed heritage

On Wednesday, bassist, composer, and bandleader Joshua Crumbly released the music video for his song “Afria,” taken from his debut full-length Rise (out now via Open Book Records).

The video was directed and edited by Alan Be, and filmed by Drew Robinson. So far, Rise has been praised by Hypebeast, Indieshuffle, Jazziz, WBGO, Earmilk, No Treble, Exclaim!, Glide, The FADER, and Ones to Watch, who praised Afria’s “waking melody over a rhythm that warms the listener, alerting you all that is undone,



Drew Robinson / Courtesy

unsaid with visually and musically.” Crumbly has recorded and toured with

a staggering list of genre-blurring artists including Kamasi Washington, Lizz

Wright, Stefon Harris, Ravi Coltrane, Anthony Wilson, Terence Blanchard, and Leon Bridges — the music on Rise manages to draw inspiration from all of those artists, melding into an uncategorizable but eminently inviting sound.

“I was on tour in Japan a few years ago and went to a couple music stores in the city of Kyoto, and found an Mbira in one of them, which is an African instrument — ‘Afria’ is sort of built on the ostinato I played on the Mbira,” Crumbly said. “When it came time to naming the song, I thought about how

ironic it was finding an African instrument in Asia and it clicked to name it ‘Afria,’ which is also a homage to my mixed heritage of African-American and Indian.”

As daunting as it may seem to describe the multifaceted career of Joshua Crumbly in one word, you couldn’t do any better than Rise. Making his professional debut at age 10 alongside his saxophonist father, Crumbly was mentored from a young age by such iconic bassists as Reggie Hamilton (Whitney Houston, Seal), Al McKibbin (Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins) and Victor Bailey

(Weather Report). Crumbly then went on to study at the prestigious Juilliard School, and by the end of his freshman year he’d been recruited to join trumpet great Terence Blanchard’s acclaimed album Magnetic.

“My goal is to write songs that can be performed at rock festivals or jazz clubs or concert halls,” Crumbly insists. “I come from a very diverse musical background and believe that this album has something for everyone.”

Unlike many debut re-

See RISE, Page 12

NFL, from Page 9

every opening day game this year.

The performance of the song will occur before “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the NFL said. The league’s season opener is scheduled for September 10, with the Kansas City Chiefs hosting the Houston Texans.

“The league taking the opportunity to play ‘Lift every voice and sing’ (the Black national anthem) is sweet. It’s a great way to honor those who started this movement year and years ago,” tweeted Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Chris Conley.

“For those who aren’t familiar with it, this song seeks to remind us of our past as a country and to strive to be better. It speaks to all of us, not just Black people, even tho it became a rallying cry for Blacks in the Jim Crow era. It is a beautiful message birthed from pain,” Conley added.

“To those claiming the song is derisive, I ask which part? Much like America the Beautiful is played to honor, this song is the same. It’s isn’t for “just Black people” it’s for all who acknowledge the past and press toward a better future.”

As noted in Sports Illus-

trated, Lift Every Voice and Sing has an extensive history since its first inception as a poem in 1899. According to the NAACP, its lyrics were penned by writer and NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson (a Jacksonville native). It was eventually adopted for music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson. Years later, it was adopted by the NAACP as the organization’s official song.

The NFL has recently acknowledged it was wrong in how it handled Kaepernick, who has mostly been black balled from the game. Commissioner Roger Goodell has said he now would encourage teams to sign the

former Super Bowl quarterback.

Sen. Ted Cruz called the decision to play the Black National Anthem “asinine,” further fueling racial tensions that have already boiled over since the Floyd killing.

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Ford commits to carbon neutrality by 2050

DEARBORN -- Ford Motor Company intends to achieve carbon neutrality globally by 2050, while setting interim targets to more urgently address climate change challenges.

The company announced that ambition today as it issued its 21st annual Sustainability Report. Ford is the only full line U.S. automaker committed to doing its part to reduce CO2 emissions in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and working with California for stronger vehicle greenhouse gas standards.

Carbon neutrality refers to achieving zero carbon emissions by balancing such emissions with carbon removal. To achieve its goal, Ford will focus initially on three areas that account for approximately 95 percent of its CO2 emissions – vehicle use, its supply base and the company’s facilities.

Ford said it is setting the 2050 goal fully aware of challenges, including customer acceptance, government regulations, economic conditions and the availability of renewable, carbon-neutral electricity and renewable fuels.

“We can develop and make great vehicles, sustain and grow a strong business and protect our planet at the same time – in fact, those



The all-electric Ford Mustang Mach-E was introduced to the market with much hype and fanfare; and now Ford has set its sights on carbon neutrality by 2050. (Photo: Ford Motor Company)

ideals complement each other,” said Bob Holycross, vice president, chief sustainability, environment and safety officer. “We don’t have all the answers yet but are determined to work with all of our global and local partners and stakeholders to get there.”

Ford also is working to develop goals approved and defined by the Science Based Targets initiative for its Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from company-owned or -controlled sources, while Scope 2 addresses indirect emissions from generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by Ford. Scope 3 emissions speak to in-use emissions from vehicles that Ford sells and emissions from its supply base,

among others.

The 2050 commitment represents Ford continuing to ratchet up more environmentally friendly performance for its products and operations. In 2019, the company expanded its climate strategy to find more effective ways to integrate the wants and needs of people and its business, along with the possibilities of technology, by applying human-centered, design-thinking. A cross-functional Ford team from around the world – including the U.S., Europe and China – developed the company’s carbon-neutral approach after analyzing information on the environment, customers, technology, legislation, energy, competitive approaches, life-cycle assessments and other trends.

Meeting the challenge

of climate change is a key responsibility and a strategic priority for Ford. This includes helping limit the global temperature increase in keeping with the Paris Agreement.

Mindy Lubber, CEO and president of the sustainability nonprofit organization Ceres, hailed Ford’s long-term goal and encouraged other companies to follow suit.

“We congratulate Ford on its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050,” she said. “Ford recognizes the urgency to address climate change, and we urge every company to take action and commit to science-based targets within their global enterprises.”

Ford is investing more than \$11.5 billion in electric vehicles through 2022, introducing zero-emission versions of some of its most popular nameplates are on the way, including the Mustang Mach-E, which starts

arriving in dealerships this year, as well as a Transit Commercial EV and fully electric F-150 coming within 24 months.

The company previously announced its plan to use 100-percent locally sourced

renewable energy for all its manufacturing plants globally by 2035. That means energy would come only from sources that naturally replenish – such as hydro-power, geothermal, wind or solar.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 27-foot 4-inches on a 32-foot 6-inch wooden utility pole at the approx. vicinity of 4715 Gaston Ave, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75246, Lat: [32.798590], Long: [-96.771331]. 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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Cellco Partnerships and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to construct several small cell monopole communication towers in the vicinity of Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75201. The heights and locations of the proposed installations are as follows: 36.5-ft tower at the approx. vicinity of 300 S. Hardwood St., Lat: [32-46-48.4632], Long: [-96-47-37.392]; 36-ft tower at the approx. vicinity of 1717 Main St., Lat: [32-46-54.9408], Long: [-96-47-47.1984]. Public comments regarding the potential effects from these sites on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days of publication to: *Trileaf Corp. Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35 Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 5125199388.*

Garland businesses could receive grants up to \$25,000

The Garland Chamber of Commerce has announced that it will be receiving applications for grants from the Covid Relief Fund (CRF) program from July 13 through Aug. 7.

CRF Business Assistance Program can be used to reimburse the costs incurred on or after March 1, 2020 because of business interruption due to COVID-19 as a result of required closures, voluntary closures to promote social distancing, or decreased customer demand. Businesses who receive grant funding are required to document how the funds are used.

The City of Garland received funding from the CARES Act and is to distribute \$500,000 of those funds to Garland small businesses through the CRF Business Assistance Program.

Grants of up to \$20,000 will be made to businesses with up to twenty (20) employees at the time of application. Applications will be accepted via the Garland Chamber website. If at least 75 percent of grant funding is not distributed by August 14, 2020, the Garland

Chamber will open grant applications to businesses employing 21 to 50 employees.

Grant applications will be processed with the help of the Garland Chamber of Commerce.

All documentation needs to be submitted up to one (1) day after application submission. Any application with missing documentation will automatically be rejected from consideration.

Grant funds are open to businesses who fit the following criteria:

- For-profit businesses with 20 or less employees at the time of City of Garland's COVID-19 emergency declaration on March 16, 2020.

- Must be located within Garland city limits and operate out of a physical location in Garland.

- Physical location includes "brick and mortar" structure, single-family homes, and other types of physical locations. Locations will be verified with the review of Certificate of Occupancy as granted by the City of Garland Building Inspection.

- Business must have been in operation since September 21, 2019.

- Registered to do business in the State of Texas.

- Demonstrate a 25% or more loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Annual gross revenue must be under \$1.5 million.

- Owner/Applicant is not currently in bankruptcy and has not filed bankruptcy in the last 12 months.

- Owner/Applicant is current with property taxes and City fees, or has a payment plan in place with County and/or City as of April 30, 2020.

- Self-employed individuals, independent contractors, and sole proprietors serving the business community are also eligible.

- No conflict of interest with the City of Garland and Garland Chamber of Commerce (i.e. the following persons cannot have ownership or financial interest in the assisted business: City of Garland elected officials and their immediate family members or City of Garland staff and Garland Chamber of Commerce staff).

- All funds must be spent by November 11, 2020.

If selected for the CRF Business Assistance Program, grants will be a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$20,000, based on invoices and proof of payment for eligible expenses paid during the period from March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020.

Businesses may not receive CRF Business Assistance Program if they have received federally-subsidized disaster assistance such as Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL Loans), Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. Applicants for CRF Business Assistance Program must disclose any funds applied for or received from these sources or other federal assistance programs. It is in the Garland Chamber's discretion to determine if funds received from any of these sources constitutes a duplication of benefits. Dallas County can use the business tax ID to verify if business has previously received federal assistance

and to verify that business is not delinquent with federal, state and local governments. Grants under this program will be provided in an amount not to exceed the level of need. Business owners are eligible to apply for both Garland's CRF Program and Dallas County Emergency Business Assistance Program (EBAP). If approved for both, business owner must choose one (1) federal funding program to accept.

If a duplication of benefits determination is made after funds have been disbursed, the amount of funds that were determined to be

duplicated must be repaid to the City of Garland by November 11, 2020.

CRF Business Assistance Program funds can be used to reimburse the costs incurred on or after March 1, 2020 of business interruption due to COVID-19 as a result of required closures, voluntary closures to promote social distancing, or decreased customer demand.

Those seeking more information on this program should contact the Garland Chamber of Commerce. Similar programs are available in other Texas cities as well.



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RISE, from Page 10

cordings that strive to pack a lifetime's worth of ideas into a handful of tunes, Rise is refreshingly open, allowing every member of the rotating cast of collaborators to add their own voice. At the same time it maintains a singular soundworld, evincing a vision confident and singular enough to leave room for spontaneous expression.

"I wanted the music to have as many opportunities for everyone to sort of musically paint and communally express together," Crumbly continues.

"I'll share with everyone what each song is about for me, but of course they can relate to it in their own way. Many of the songs are drawn from a specific experience that I've had,

but I don't wish to impose that interpretation on any-

one else." For inspiration, Crumbly looked inward, leading to a reflective and intimate-feeling album that

bears the traces of lost loved ones, personal struggle, and elevating to a more hopeful place.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct 39-ft small cell monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 4849 Regent Blvd., Irving, Dallas County, TX, 75063, Lat: [32-56-3.5016], Long: [-97-0-40.9212]. 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, Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

AT&T Mobility proposes to construct two (2) Monopole Small Cell Communications Towers in the approx. vicinity of Irving and Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. The heights and locations for the proposed installations are as follows: a 35-foot tower in the approx. vicinity of 650 Hidden Ridge, Irving, Dallas County, Texas 75038, Lat: [32-52-40.26] N, Long: [-96-57-16.275] W; a 39-foot tower at the approx. vicinity of 1225 Young Street, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75201, Lat: [32-46-37.41] N, Long: [-96-48-02.06] 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, Andrea, a.dominguez@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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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

#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.

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

July 12, 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.

July 15, 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
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972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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July 12

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 glo-

See CHURCH, Page 14



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Death Notices - ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com

Gary Glenn Parson
Born: 10/11/1962
Died: 06/30/2020
Services: July 6,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Gilbert Harris
Born: 08/18/1946
Died: 06/30/2020
Services: July 7,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Chad Edward Graham
Born: 11/15/1965
Died: 6/30/2020
Services: July 8,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Shelton Jones
Born: 08/09/1964
Died: 06/23/2020

Graveside Services: July 8,2020 at Grundy Memorial Park, Greenville, TX
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Birdia Sanders
Born: 07/10/1939
Died: 07/05/2020
Services: July 10,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Bridget LaFay Washington
Born: 08/28/1962
Died: 06/30/2020
Services: July 10,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Curtis Wayne Hunter
Born: 05/06/1963
Died: 07/04/2020

Services: July 10,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Gregory Lee Roberson
Born: 01/22/1958
Died: 06/30/2020
Services: July 11,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Ruth Henderson
Born: 05/26/1943
Died: 07/02/2020
Services: July 1,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Shenika Vontrice Freeman
Born: 12/31/1978
Died: 07/05/2020
Services: July 14,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Guy Belvin Futch, Sr.
Born: 2/22/1938
Died: 07/06/2020
Services: July 16,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Margaret Louise Gdenjen
Born: 07/21/1953
Died: 07/2/2020
Services: July 18,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Shirley Ann Radford
Born: 04/28/1963
Died: 07/05/2020
Services: July 18,2020
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Margaret Jeanette Clay
Born: 9/13/1934

Died: 6/17/2020
Services: 6/22/2020 (10 a.m.)
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

DeRese Kirk
Born: 12/21/1968
Died: 6/17/2020
Services: 6/25/2020 (11 a.m.) at The Passion of Christ 1ST Community Church, Dallas, TX
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Ernest Gene Moore
Born: 8/8/1948
Died: 6/21/2020
Services: 6/25/2020 (1 p.m.)
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Mary Jo Hinton
Born: 1/17/1956
Died: 6/20/2020

Services: 6/26/2020 (11 a.m.)
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Isaiah Messiyah Johnson
Born: 5/1/2017
Died: 6/19/2020
Services: 6/27/2020 (11 a.m.)
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

LaKeitha Joiner-Jackson
Born: 8/2/1976
Died: 6/22/2020
Services: 6/30/2020 (4 p.m.)
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

Larry D. Whaley
Born: 5/7/1958
Died: 6/23/2020
Services: 7/4/2020 (4 p.m.)
Eternal Rest Funeral Home

CHURCH, from Page 13

ry and honor.

July 15

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
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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.

July 10, 7 pm

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

July 12, 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.

July 13, 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

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gaging, Authentic, Life-Changing)

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

July 12, 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.

July 15, 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
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Plano, TX 75075
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www.mocop.org

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

July 12, 8 and 11 am

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

faithfulness.

July 13, 7 to 8 pm

Every Monday Night

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

July 15, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study

class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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The tipping point



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers..."

(Ephesians 4:11-12).

Malcolm Gladwell authored a secular marketing book entitled Tipping Point. A tipping point is when an idea, product or movement becomes accepted by the masses. Gladwell says, "It is the best way to understand the emergence of fashion trends, crime waves or unknown books becoming bestsellers."

He says ideas, products, messages and behaviors spread just like viruses do but he has discovered there are usually three types of people involved in the marketing process for this to happen. He calls them

connectors, mavens and salesmen.

Connectors are people with a special gift for bringing the world together. They know lots of people who have an ability to make impact.

Mavens are people who accumulate knowledge about a particular area. They are information brokers who like to get information and share it with others to help solve their problems.

Salesmen have an ability to persuade when we are unconvinced of what we are hearing. They are critical to the tipping point for word-of-mouth epidemics.

I believe these three people correlate to the apostle (connectors), often defined as "one who is sent"; the prophet (mavens), defined as "one who proclaims truth" and the evangelist (salesmen), "one who wins the lost" - all described in Ephesians 4:11.

John Wesley founded Methodism in the 1780s. He went from 20,000 fol-



Sister Tarpley and Police Chief Derick Miller of the Carrollton Police Department.

lowers to 90,000 in five years. However, he was not the most Charismatic preacher compared to Martin Luther or John Calvin who were recognized as the leading theologians. His genius was organizational. He was a maven

form small groups of the most enthusiastic of the followers.

He used connectors (apostles) and salesmen (evangelists) to get people to his meetings. This creat-

ed a community around his beliefs in order to practice those beliefs in the context of daily life. This contributed to his success and

See TARPLEY, Page 16

NDG to 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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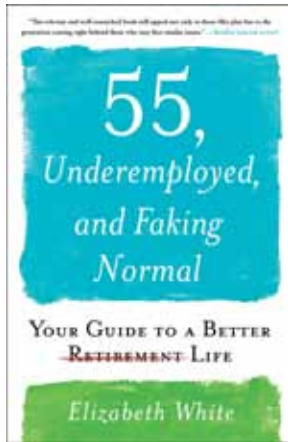
NDG Book Review: 55, Underemployed, and Faking Normal

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your last regular paycheck has come and gone.

That was awhile ago, back before you were downsized / laid off / reassigned right out of a job and you're not sure what to do. Your savings are nearly gone, your retirement funds are next, and you're too young to get Social Security. In "55, Underemployed, and Faking Normal" by Elizabeth White, you'll see how to make this new life work.

At thirty-five years old, Elizabeth White had a solid job at the World Bank, she owned a house, and she was heading to Harvard to get



a PhD. There, she "caught the entrepreneurial bug" and, in partnership with her mother, she became a business owner; when the business failed, she was resilient and landed some consulting gigs that put her finances

back to where they were before.

And then the Great Recession hit. Suddenly, White was exactly where the title of this book indicates: too young, too old, and suddenly "totally out of the loop." Shortly afterward, when an essay she penned went surprisingly viral, she learned that she wasn't alone.

Experts say that, to retire successfully, Americans need "fifteen to twenty times their annual salaries" in some sort of savings or program but White points out the realism: very few new retirees have achieved that. The vast majority haven't. What's more, rosy

retirement pictures are painted of island getaways, long walks in Paris, and palatial homes, when the reality is that a very high percentage of Americans age 55+ don't know where they'll be living this fall. Some of America's seniors are trying to get by on less than \$500 per month.

If this is your new reality, there are things you can do.

First, know that "the cavalry ain't coming" and you're more-or-less on your own. Learn to "small up" in your housing and your possessions by knowing exactly what's important to you. Re-think your priorities. Ignore your pride away and

take the dang food stamps. Take care of your home. Take care of your relationships. Take care of yourself.

So, here's what you need to know about "55, Underemployed, and Faking Normal": what you get out of this book will depend on how old you are now.

Regardless of what the title indicates, this book is absolutely for new college grads or those entering the workforce this year and are serious about their futures. Younger readers, throw away those horror novels that line your shelves; for you, this book is a cautionary, real-life, terror-filled memoir that doubles as a

hardcover warning for your elderhood.

For anyone who's facing a retirement that's not necessarily on their terms, author Elizabeth White has frights for you, too, but they're tamer. You've met those terrors already, and the advice she offers helps make them less scary, more attackable, more survivable.

"55, Underemployed, and Faking Normal" is useful, even enjoyable, but it's serious stuff with no fluff. For readers who are facing a new reality for their Golden Years, reluctantly or otherwise, reading it might pay off.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

ability to start a movement.

Mavens, Connectors and Salesmen make an idea contagious by working together to spread the message. Consider bringing

these three types of people together to see real success on your next project.

Now is the time to thank God for His loving hand of guidance. This is hard

to do from a human standpoint (even a "child's" viewpoint) but thank God for His chastisement.

Know that God loves you because He cared enough to bring about or allow things to happen to

stop you and redirect your priorities and your paths.

When things don't turn out like you expect, it's usually because you are not doing what God want you to do or you are doing something that would not

bring about the best results for you, your loved ones, or those in your circle of influence.

Pray that God would continue to direct the work of your hands; the desires of your heart, the steps that

you take and help you turn in trust to Him when God redirect your paths. As for God, you know that all things work together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Love God in Jesus' name.

BIG MAC, from Page 5

British-born Steve Easterbrook, came on board in 2015 and initiated a corporate restructuring plan that de-emphasized racial diversity and input from Black executives and franchisees. She and Guster-Hines were then demoted from vice-president to senior director positions in July 2018.

They are seeking compensation following those demotions, claiming that they occurred as a result of discrimination.

At its bare essence, the women allege in the suit the world's largest fast-food restaurant chain has "declared war against the African American community."

She noted her observation is based on its new business plan and corporate leadership's attitudes toward African American employees and owner-operators who had the majority of restaurants in African American consumer markets and would be impacted, more so than others. "And that action coincided with a significant reduction in the number of

African American owner-operators."

The suit also alleges:

- Before Easterbrook and Kempczinski's arrival, African American consumers generated 20% of all revenue for McDonald's US stores.

- Easterbrook and Kempczinski caused a decrease in advertising to attract African American patronage. The constant cutting in the funding of programs for building African American leadership resulted in the system-wide purchases by African Americans to decline by 6%.

- Nearly one out of three African American franchisees left the McDonald's system since Easterbrook arrived which was disproportionate to the loss of non-African American franchisees.

But among Neal's and Guster-Hines' most shocking claims was the racist, sexist taunts they had to endure from the McDonald's executives. The suit alleges that in 2005 Marty Ranft,

a white vice president and general manager of the McDonald's Ohio Region told Guster-Hines "You are a nigger like all the rest—you just believe you are better cause you are a smart one."

She further alleges she reported Ranft to her supervisors and emphasized that she would not tolerate being called a nigger within McDonald's or anywhere else. She said there was no response to her complaint from the corporation and Ranft was eventually promoted to Vice President of Development for the entire U.S.

The suit also alleges in 2017 Strong, who supervised Neal and Guster-Hines and at the time responsible for 50% of the U.S. business and about 14,000 restaurants, instructed Neal not to consult with or take the advice of two African American women, Bridgette Hernandez and Barbara Calloway who had been promoted over Strong's opposition. She alleged he stated, "We don't need any of that Black woman's attitude. They are

too angry and aggressive."

The next year in March 2018, Strong allegedly told Guster-Hines that five African American women, Chioke Elmore, Regina Johnson, Hernandez, Calloway and Neal, were "angry Black women" that "always seemed to be mad about something." He then allegedly asked Guster-Hines to explain the source of their anger.

The five women constituted 40% of female African American vice presidents as of March 2018. And were three out of five vice presidents reporting to Strong when he allegedly made these statements.

"So that was shocking that he was so openly discussing that with various stakeholders that we were angry Black women," Neal said.

But what she, Guster-Hines, and others found even more jarring and demoralizing was after they shared Strong's racist, sexist, and demeaning remarks to his superiors, he, too, was promoted and they were demoted.

"In shocking ways difficult to overstate, McDonald's under Easterbrook and Kempczinski declared a war against the African American community," the lawsuit alleges.

Neither the McDonald's Corporation Media Relations Department or the lawyer representing them, Nigel F. Telman of Chicago, returned calls from the Chronicle by publication deadline.

However, in a statement to the media in January, issued at the filing of the suit, McDonald's said it disagreed with the characterization of the company's behavior. It said 45% of its corporate officers and all of its field vice-presidents are people of color.

"At McDonald's, our actions are rooted in our belief that a diverse, vibrant, inclusive, and respectful company makes us stronger," the company said. "While we disagree with characterizations in the complaint, we are currently reviewing it and will respond to the complaint accordingly."

Carmen D. Caruso and Linda C. Chatman, the Chicago-based trial lawyers representing Neal and Guster-Hines said the behavior by McDonald's executives constituted some of the most egregious acts of racial discrimination they have ever been confronted with in their careers.

"Under the guise of reorganizing the way they manage the franchise system, the restaurant system across the country, they basically decimated the ranks of the African American leadership and employees," Caruso said. "That to me is one of the most glaring act of intentional discrimination that we saw in the case. And we lay those numbers out in greater detail in the complaint itself. But that was very, very, serious discrimination in employment, and it's over and above a lot of other things that came before and other things that have come after, but that's kind of a centerpiece of the discrimination against the executive employees, including Domineca and Vicki."