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One-On-One: Dallas City Councilman Casey Thomas on Community, Chief Hall and Mayor Johnson

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

With the 2015 election of long-time Dallas resident Casey Thomas, II as City Council representative for District 3 came an upsurge in the revitalization of the 50 square-mile track that lies south of the Trinity River. Thomas has labored assiduously to alter the perception about what is economically, culturally, socially and, academically possible in the area he champions. Thomas' ability to lead and form coalitions has been recognized by both the former and present mayors of Dallas.

Among the countless committees on which the ubiquitous Thomas serves are the Public Safety (police) Committee, Financial Management Committee, and Thomas chairs the current mayor's highly prioritized Workforce, Education and Equity Committee. These are the general areas on which our conversation was centered.

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, Downtown protests over police injustice, friction between the Dallas mayor and the surprising resignation of Dallas PD Chief Renee Hall, there is no better time to gain the insight and opinion of the two-term councilman.

Thomas' talents have been spread thin, to say the least, but the accomplishment he's most proud of is be-



Dallas City Councilmember Casey Thomas, II represents Dallas' 3rd council district, a position he has held since 2015. (Image: City of Dallas screenshot)

ing community-centered.

Thomas says he is most proud of his ability to get his constituents involved and be in the habit of expressing their frustrations. He has been successful in showing his community how to get things done. Thomas is proud of the revitalization of community shopping centers in his areas that have been allowed to deteriorate over decades. Thomas, who is a member of the City's COVID committee, says, "It's not about titles it's about relevance."

With the horrific death of George Floyd, a rash of protests hit Dallas like a monsoon. Thomas believes the time is ripe for systemic change.

Thomas says, "People have been outraged for a long time and unfortunately it took the murder of George Floyd to cause them to take action," but warns that nearly irreparable damage can leave a valid cause tainted. "As far as rioting and looting those are things people should be mindful of the damage they're doing to their community and own city...Looking at the damaged that was done in Compton, California when Rodney King was beaten, and the officers were found not guilty, it took 15 or 20 years to recuperate from the fire that happened in that

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Khady Kamara



Carol H. Williams

People In The News...



Sylvana Flores Avila

NDG Quote of the Week: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." ~Harriet Tubman

Khady Kamara

Second Stage Theater (Carole Rothman, President and Artistic Director) is pleased to announce that Khady Kamara, who is currently serving as Managing Director of Arena Stage in Washington, has been named Executive Director at Second Stage Theater. Ms. Kamara will join the award-winning Broadway and Off-Broadway institution part-time beginning September 14, 2020 and will assume the role full time beginning January 4, 2021.

Kamara brings to Second Stage a wealth of manage-



ment, marketing and strategic planning experience. In her 19 years with Arena Stage, she rose through the ranks, her work integral to the success of Arena's temporary residency in Crystal City and the opening of the

Mead Center for American Theater. She doubled the subscription base and built strong patron engagement. In her current role as Managing Director, Kamara is responsible for all of Arena's combined \$19 million earned and contributed income streams, as well as overseeing building operations for the 200,000 square foot Mead Center campus, general management and production. She is proud to have contributed to the world-premieres of Dear Evan Hansen and The Originalist, both of which transferred to New York, the former produced Off-Broad-

way by Second Stage.

In addition to managing strategic planning efforts with the board of directors, a core focus of her career is strengthening community relations and developing new audiences with a focus on diversity and inclusion. Kamara currently serves as Adjunct Faculty for the Arts Management Program at George Mason University, EDI Co-Chair of the League of Resident Theaters and a member of the Board of Directors of Theatre Washington.

"It is an honor to join Carole, the dedicated staff and passionate board at Second

Stage," said Ms. Kamara. "During these unprecedented times, we have a unique opportunity to rebuild and reimagine our next chapter while ensuring that Second Stage remains an integral part of the New York theater community at large. I've advocated for a focused lens on diversity, inclusion and social justice awareness throughout my 22-year career, and I look forward to being an authentic voice as part of a cultural institution that is actively working to uphold these values. I have great respect for the artists of Second Stage and I'm inspired by the theater's

commitment to artistic excellence. I'm excited to work with this talented team and call Second Stage my new theatrical home."

"Khady's strong leadership abilities and her passionate commitment to the work of living American writers make her the ideal new Executive Director for Second Stage," said Rothman. "It's a challenging time for theater and I am impressed with Khady's fierce determination to move the institution forward as we start producing again. She will be a powerful new voice in our Broadway

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Carol H. Williams

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior
National Correspondent

Carol H. Williams will receive Ad Age's Vanguard Award during this year's Women to Watch Awards event scheduled tonight.

Williams, the CEO of Carol H. Williams Advertising, is being honored for a lifetime of significant achievements, including being named to the AAF Advertising Hall of Fame.

According to a news release, now in its second year, the Vanguard Awards



is given to women like Williams, who have inspired, mentored, and blazed trails for other women in the industry.

"Carol H. Williams personifies the best and the

most effective advertising genius mind in the global advertising industry," said National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

"The NNPA congratulates and salutes Carol H. Williams not only for her outstanding leadership but also for her longstanding commitment to freedom, justice, and equality. Our society and the world continue to be made better because of leaders like Carol H. Williams."

The first African American female to be named a VP and creative director at Leo Burnett Co., Williams

opened her firm in 1986.

Among the Fortune 500 clients she has created work for are General Motors, General Mills, Kraft, Procter & Gamble, the U.S. Army, and Walt Disney Co.

Williams is also the first African American creative inductee in the Advertising Hall of Fame and a 2020 Matrix Award honoree.

Her creative credits include Secret's "Strong enough for a man but made for a woman," and campaigns for brands including New Freedom and Pillsbury while at Burnett.

Williams reportedly has led and motivated more

than 5,000 employees over a more than 30-year career and has exceeded \$30 million in revenue during high-performance and growth periods.

The agency previously won an award for its multicultural online and interactive campaign during the 2018 Chevy/NNPA DTU campaign.

The agency focuses on four distinct areas of influence when serving their clients: Cultural Insight and Understanding; Social, Influencer and Connections Planning; Creative and Content; and Production, Digital Development and Experien-

tial. The agency uses these areas to leverage cultural and emotional intelligence to uncover insights which work to their clients' benefit.

"Powerful narratives are the shaping force in our lives and thereby creates empathy and motivates action at their most profound level," Williams told NNPA Newswire in a statement on Tuesday, Sept. 15. "Narratives that ignite and nurture passions within us, envision new possibilities, develop confidence, and inspire us to overcome any obstacles that we face in making what was once unimaginable, imaginable," she stated.

Sylvana Flores Avila

Sylvana Flores Avila is the publisher of *Viva Texas!* Blog. She is a writer and former journalist and published the award-winning *Viva Dallas!* magazine in the 90s, receiving the Ford Hispanic Salute for "quality education and literacy."

After two decades of working in the arts and education, she has decided to return to her writing roots and publish *Viva Texas!* Blog.

Viva Texas! is about:

1. The Culture - with deep roots in Native and Hispanic heritage - Tex-Mex food & drink; Spanglish; Tejano & Conjunto music; and Fiestas.

2. The People - con-



victions and passion for community, faith, family, friendship, and love.

3. The Place - few places are as unique and diverse as Texas: with cities, rural communities such as pueblos and small towns, and hip urban cities and suburbs that add contrasts; destinations at beaches, riv-

ers, lakes, the hill country, and the border.

4. The Spirit - the values that guide us - work hard, play hard, and always give back.

Expect to read about everything under the big Texas sky at www.VivaTexas.blog.

Currently the site is divided into three sections of interest; food, travel and events.

Avila says she has lived in many places including Lubbock, where she attended Texas Tech University.

She studied Mass Communications and worked for *El Editor* newspaper - which was her first job. While Lubbock holds a special place in her heart. She has also lived in Aus-

tin, Houston, Cockrell Hill, and currently resides in Dallas.

"My hometown, Crystal City is where the heart is," Avila says. "My parents live there along with family - six generations of Avilas and Flores. I always include Eagle Pass too, since my maternal grandpa was born there - with roots in Coahuila, Mexico, as well.

"I've visited every part of Texas and plan to travel a lot."

Sylvana is continually active as founder of Oak Cliff Arts and has directed the Hispanic Heritage Month - Dallas and Cinco de Mayo Dallas for 25 years. She is an arts and literary advocate-educator.

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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.

The Fear Factor: Protest against injustice, but vote against policies

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Special Contributor

Karl Augustus Menninger believed that fears are educated into us, and can, if we wish, be educated out. African Americans tried the "educated out" route to rid themselves of the thing that most immediately threatens their existence. Yet, after countless decades of protests and marches Black men and women are still dying senselessly in our streets and in their own homes at the hands of the police, who tend to strike with extreme prejudice.

It's no mere coincidence that shouts of police injustice and cries for voting rights are synonymous during protests. Protest marches and printing slogans on t-shirts are brilliant methods of having your voice heard, but protests and catchy slogans alone are not sufficient enough to stimulate change. The only way change to a policy so deeply engrained into a government's policy is to vote in masses to beat the policy down and out of existence. Make no mistake, what we are witnessing is an organized and concerted effort of control tactics that are exacting a policy that is a philosophical belief about how Blacks must be controlled.

Don't be misled. The recent and repeated acts of police undue violence is not a matter of Black versus white, nor good cop versus bad cop; nor Black cop versus white cop. All cops must embrace a Blue state of mind. The killings are simply collateral damage from that Blue mindset. Being "Blue" means that police—regardless of their race—are obliged to promote a bigger mission: instill the fear factor into the minds of African American communities and they will look upon white might as the master. It isn't a new tactic, though, the philosophy of implanting the fear

factor into the psyche of African Americans is deeply woven into the American fabric.

A wise man once said with a litany of colorful words: he who seeks to instill fear in others is himself sorely afraid. His words proved to be prophetic because the get out of jail free card for police who have committed murder is the uttering of the words: "I was afraid for my life," no matter how conclusive the evidence proves that a prudent man would not assume his life to be in peril.

Although, in some cases, a policeman just might be that afraid. Imagine, if you can, growing up your whole life hearing tales of an ominous and dark being that is far removed and segregated from your world. Stern warnings of a black beast that is physically superior, that moves quicker than the wind, dines ravenously on white women, and one that it takes at least seven bullets to halt. Now this "hero" finds himself dressed in blue, and it's late at night in the neighborhood of the beast—and he's armed with lethal weapons. His natural reaction is to shoot quick at the first sound he hears, or shadowy image he sees, or inconsequential gesture, or cell phone he thought looked like a gun.

The flames of the fear that would cause a person to shoot reflexively and without just cause, are consistently being fanned by people by the likes of Rudy Giuliani, who said during an interview "more police officers are shot and killed by Blacks than police officers kill African-Americans." It's not the police that should be worried and fearful, instead, it is African Americans who should be in perpetual fear.

There were more than 1,000 unarmed citizens killed by police in America between 2013 and 2019. One-third of those killed

were Black. The number of incidents of police killings of African Americans is on a troubling upward trend. More Blacks were killed by police in 2019 than were killed in 2014. It doesn't matter whether Black victims are armed or unarmed when these incidents occur. More than any other racial group it is Blacks who are more likely to be shot, beaten, restrained, intentionally hit by a police vehicle, pepper-sprayed, tasered, choked, or knelt upon while unarmed. What is even more disturbing is that in 99% of these cases of police misdeeds the offending officer is not charged; and even less of the 1% of those who are charged are ever convicted.

It was over five months ago when three Louisville, Kentucky police officers kicked in the door of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor in the middle of the night as she lay sleeping in bed. In a matter of seconds, Taylor was shot five times and now she's lying in her bed dead. To date, two of the three officers that committed that unthinkable act have been placed on administrative leave—which is equivalent to a paid vacation—and the third officer did lose his Louisville badge, but it is not unusual that he be handed another badge in some other city.

America's Executive in Chief, Donald J. Trump, is also the chief prognosticator of this fear factor. When Trump is at the podium spewing his poison he sometimes sounds as eerily as Jim Jones talking Kool-aid in the final hours of Jonestown, Guyana; and Trump is as divisive as the most ardent white supremacist. The fear Trump spreads has infected generations of his most vehement followers and has polarized our nation. It is that same overseer mentality African Americans have been forced to endure for cen-

turies that Trump preaches and promotes at the national level.

Although, there is a good reason why Trump and other like-minded individuals fight so hard to quash the vote. If Blacks begin to vote unified in full force, they will become empowered. If Blacks become empowered the fear factor will diminish. If the fear factor diminishes Blacks will see themselves as equals. And if Blacks become as equals white supremacy will be knocked from the foundation of its ivory tower.

America is sometimes referred to as the new Roman Empire. So, then, there is a lesson to be learned from a Roman protest that took place in 73 BC, where slaves rebelled against Roman oppression. It took the Romans two torrid years to suppress the uprising. The penalty for protesting the Roman government was the crucifixion of over 6,000 captured slaves. And as a show of might and to instill the fear factor into others who dared protest Roman rule, those 6,000 bodies were left hanging on 6,000 crosses along both sides of the Appian Way for a span of 120 miles—and the bodies were left there until the flesh pulled from the bones. It was all a matter of Roman policy.

Yes, shout. Continue to protest. Let your voice and demands be heard with your words. But don't let your momentum end with mere words, and placards and t-shirts bedecked with catchy slogans. When the shouting is done, and the painted shirts have dried, galvanize your forces and march them to a polling place with that same tenacity if you truly want to see an immediate change in the policies that afflict us all as a society. Follow up that fervor that causes one to rebel against a society with a solid vote.

Words without works is dead.

"A Fitting Memorial"
NDG Obituaries

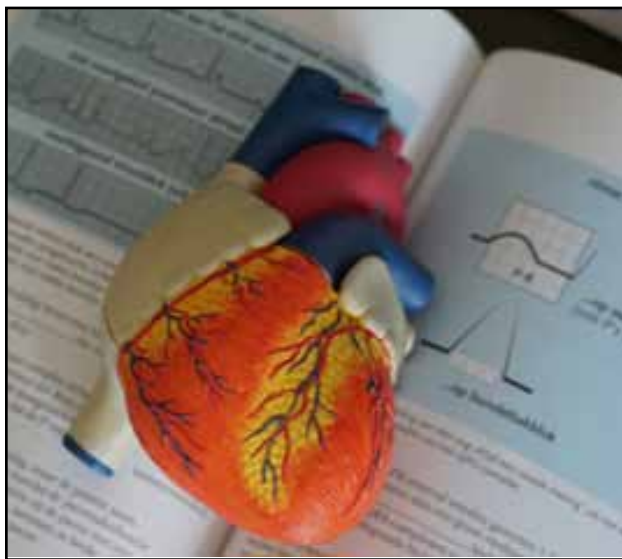
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New research shows an increase in the number of Americans living with uncontrolled high blood pressure

The American Heart Association is spreading the word about an illness which is no getting near the attention it needs to.

The latest research published in JAMA showing that a greater proportion of Americans, particularly communities of color, were living with uncontrolled high blood pressure in 2017-2018 than previously is extremely troublesome.

Despite the fact that we have more scientific evidence than ever before pointing to the devastating effects of uncontrolled high blood pressure, as well as broader access to low-cost generic medications to treat the condition, blood pressure control has worsened. Without intervention, more



Robina Weermeijer / Unsplash

people will be at high-risk of heart attack, stroke, disability and death.

This research reinforces the need for all health care providers and their patients to prioritize blood pressure control, especially now

as cardiovascular disease places people at greater risk for adverse outcomes associated with COVID-19. The data also highlight the need for us to address upstream factors, including structural racism, that continue

to contribute to the greater prevalence of hypertension and lower rates of blood pressure control among Black, Latino, Asian and Indigenous populations compared to White adults.

The AMA and AHA will continue to build on their collective work to ensure physicians and all Americans, especially those within underrepresented and under-resourced communities, have the health care access and support they need to control high blood pressure and reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in the United States.”

Recognizing that high blood pressure is a major health threat to patients, the AMA developed a frame-

work for improving blood pressure control, with online resources to make it easier for physicians and care teams to access the latest evidence-based information and they need to help manage their patients’ high blood pressure.

These resources are available to all physicians and health systems as part of the AMA and AHA’s joint Target: BP initiative—a national program launched in 2016 aimed at reducing the number of Americans

who die from heart attacks and strokes each year by urging physician practices, health systems and patients to prioritize blood pressure control.

Additionally, earlier this year, the AMA and AHA teamed up with a group of national health care organizations and ESSENCE on the Release the Pressure campaign to advocate for improved heart health with Black women.

Source: American Heart Association

Antibody test developed for COVID-19 that is sensitive, specific and scalable

(UT-Austin) An antibody test for the virus that causes COVID-19, developed by researchers at The University of Texas at Austin in collaboration with Houston Methodist and other institutions, is more accurate and can handle a much larger number of donor samples at lower overall cost than standard antibody tests currently in use. In the near term, the test can be used to accurately identify the best donors for convalescent plasma therapy and measure how well candidate vaccines and other therapies elicit an immune response.

Additional uses coming later that are likely to have the biggest societal impact, the researchers say, are to assess relative immunity in those previously infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and identify asymptomatic individuals with high levels of neutralizing antibodies against the virus.

The UT Austin research team, led by Jason Lavin-

der, a research associate in the Cockrell School of Engineering, and Greg Ippolito, assistant professor in the College of Natural Sciences and Dell Medical School, developed the new antibody test for SARS-CoV-2 and provided the viral antigens for this study via their UT Austin colleague and collaborator, associate professor Jason McLellan. Other UT Austin team members are Dalton Towers and Jimmy Gollihar. The work was published this week in The Journal of Clinical Investigation.

“This is potentially game-changing when it comes to serological testing for COVID-19 immunity,” Lavin-der said. “We can now use highly scalable, automated testing to examine antibody-based immunity to COVID-19 for hundreds of donors in a single run. With increased levels of automation, limited capacity for serological testing can be rapidly addressed using this

approach.”

The gold standard of COVID-19 antibody testing measures the amount of virus neutralizing (VN) antibodies circulating in the blood, because this closely correlates with immunity. However, this kind of antibody testing is not widely available because it’s technically complex; requires days to set up, run and interpret; and needs to be performed in a biosafety level 3 laboratory.

The research team, therefore, looked to another type of test, called ELISA assays, that can be implemented and performed with relative ease in a high-throughput fashion and are widely available and extensively used in clinical labs across the world. The ELISA tests, or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays, look at whether antibodies against specific SARS-CoV-2 proteins are present and produce a quantitative measure of those antibodies.

The goal of the study was to test the hypothesis that levels of antibodies that target two regions of the virus’s spike protein—spike ectodomain (ECD) and receptor binding domain (RBD)—are correlated with virus neutralizing an-

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Boatswain's Mate Seaman Ricardo Carrasco, from Irving, Texas, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114), monitors for surface and air contacts while on watch on the starboard bridge wing. Ralph Johnson is part of Nimitz Carrier Strike Group and is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and Pacific through the Western Indian Ocean and three critical chokepoints to the free flow of global commerce. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Anthony Collier)

Forward Majority makes historic investment to flip Texas State House

This week Forward Majority announced it is investing over \$6.2 million in independent expenditure campaigns across 18 districts in an effort to unseat dozens of entrenched Republican legislators and establish a Democratic majority in the Texas State House ahead of 2021 redistricting. Forward Majority's investment counters millions of dollars in special interest money from insurance companies, big pharma, big oil and corporate lobbyists flowing to GOP legislators and millions of dollars outside groups like the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC) have already announced they will spend to defend the GOP majority.

"We have a once in a generation opportunity to establish a Democratic majority ahead of redistricting and cement Texas' status as the biggest battleground state in the country," said Ben Wexler-Waite, Communications Director for Forward Majority. "Flipping the state house will stop Republicans from being able to gerrymander dozens of congressional seats and put an end to the right's dangerous voter suppression agenda that has systematically sought to turn millions of Texans

away from the polls. For too long, Republican legislators have used millions of dollars in special interest money to drown out their challengers and cling onto power. This year we're going to make sure we have a fair fight."

Forward Majority has been implementing a long term plan to flip the Texas state house and put an end to gerrymandering and voter suppression in what is very quickly becoming the biggest battleground state in the country. The group has put nearly \$10 million to date toward achieving that goal, including \$2.5 million its PAC spent in 2018 across over 20 state house districts, helping to narrow a massive GOP fundraising advantage and helping to flip 12 districts from red to blue. Like in 2018, Forward Majority's 2020 investment will go entirely toward voter communication programs on TV, digital and mail in support of Democratic state house challengers.

Fair Democracy, an affiliated 501(c)(4) social welfare organization, has invested over \$800,000 since 2019 on nonpartisan voter registration and legislative accountability efforts.

See FLIP, Page 8

DEC Network distributes \$1.1M through Revive Dallas Small Business Relief Fund

The DEC Network (formerly the Dallas Entrepreneur Center), in collaboration with the Communities Foundation of Texas and LiftFund, is proud to share more than \$1,000,000 of forgivable loans to 54 Dal-

las entrepreneurs through the Revive Dallas Small Business Relief Fund. Funding on these loans began last month.

"This year has presented businesses with unprecedented challenges," said

Bill Chinn, CEO of The DEC Network. "These challenges have been particularly difficult for our small business community. The Revive Dallas fund was designed to support those truly small business-

es in Dallas, with awards available to those with fewer than 15 employees."

Initial funding has been approved for 54 companies, with loan amounts ranging

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COUNT ALL
kids
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United States
Census
2020



**Big or small, the
Census is for us all.**

Count all kids and babies!

Children should be included on your 2020 Census form—and not just children related to you, but any kids living at your address most of the time. When babies and children are included, the programs that support them get the funding they need.

Count your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, foster kids, and the children of any friends or relatives staying with you, even if it's only temporary. Babies count, too! Even if they're still in the hospital, as long as they were born by April 1, 2020, make sure the person completing the Census for your address includes them on the form.

For more information about the 2020 Census, visit 2020Census.gov or call 844-330-2020.

#2020Census #CountAllKids

Sunset students overcome adversity to be named NCA All-American

When the switch to virtual learning happened in the spring, Sunset High School cheerleading coach Natasha Mitchell held virtual practices and made sure her students didn't miss out on their dream to attend the National Cheerleading Association's (NCA) cheer camp. Her athletes' hard work paid off at August's virtual camp when four of 13 nominated cheerleaders from Sunset made the NCA All-American team.

Jourdyn Hawkins and Mario Garcia, of the Class of 2021, and Alexis Rodriguez and Frederick James Jr., of the Class of 2022, not only made Sunset athletic



history but are also a part of Sunset's P-TECH, which provides students with the tuition-free opportunity of earning up to 60 hours of

college credit-or an associate degree-while still in high school.

Varsity cheer captain Jourdyn Hawkins is further

making history as the first-ever Sunset student invited to apply to be NCA staff next year.

"I can't express how

proud I am of her as a coach," Mitchell said. "She was able to demonstrate her strength as a leader through a [computer]screen. For strangers to see those qualities in her without even meeting her face-to-face shows how incredible she is."

Ever since she was a little girl, Hawkins knew she wanted to cheer.

"Cheerleading is about leadership," Hawkins said. "It's helping me become a better person, [practice] soft skills, hard skills, how to communicate with other people, and how to build connections."

Through planning ahead,

she is able to balance her collegiate academy classes, cheerleading, and a part-time job at a bookstore. She plans to pursue a career in the medical field as an OB-GYN.

"I want to make it possible for women with underlying health conditions to have as healthy pregnancies as possible," Hawkins said.

"She is a humble young lady and a strong leader," Mitchell added. "All of her hard work these past four years in cheerleading and in P-TECH has given her the foundation to face any challenges that she may face as she prepares for college and pursues becoming a doctor."

Collin College named a '2020 Great College To Work For'

Collin College is one of the best higher education employers in the nation, according to a new survey by The Great Colleges to Work For® program.

The results, released today in a special insert of The Chronicle of Higher Education, are based on a survey of 221 colleges and universities. In all, 79 of the 221 institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. The results are reported for small, medium,

and large institutions, with Collin College included among the large colleges with 10,000 or more students.

Collin College received special recognition as an Honor Roll institution for the second year in a row, with honors in 10 categories this year:

- Collaborative Governance
- Compensation & Benefits
- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Facilities, Workspace &

Security

- Job Satisfaction
- Professional/Career Development Programs
- Respect & Appreciation
- Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship
- Teaching Environment (Faculty Only)
- Work/Life Balance

"This is very satisfying affirmation of Collin College, but our real goal is not recognition – it's being an educational institution that values the needs and contribution of every individual. In that sense, every-

one at Collin College helps to make this a great place to work," Collin College's District President Dr. Neil Matkin said.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institution questionnaire that captured employment data and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the

employee feedback.

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. For more information and to view all current and previously recognized institutions, visit the Great Colleges program website at www.greatcollegesprogram.com. ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm, administered the survey and analyzed the results.

Collin College serves

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Kamara, from Page 2

and theatrical community and for the many artists who are part of the Second Stage

family. Thank you to Terry Lindsay, Tim McClimon and the entire Board Search

Committee for your remarkable work."

"After a rigorous national search which began in February, I am thrilled to have

Khady as our unanimous choice as Executive Director," said Co-Chairman of the Board Terry Lindsay. "We were impressed with

her innovative and collaborative approach, impactful community engagement, and her leadership in EDI initiatives. Partnering with

the Board as we embark on expanded strategic planning, Khady is the right person for Second Stage at this critical time for theater."

TEST, from Page 4

tibody levels, making these more accessible, easier-to-perform ELISA tests a surrogate marker to identify plasma donors with antibody levels above the recommended U.S. Food and Drug Administration threshold for convalescent plasma donation.

In collaboration with

UT Austin, Penn State University and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, study authors James M. Musser, M.D., Ph.D., and Eric Salazar, M.D., Ph.D., physician scientists at Houston Methodist, used the new test to evaluate 2,814 blood samples used

in an ongoing study of convalescent plasma therapy. Houston Methodist became the first academic medical center in the nation to transfuse plasma from recovered individuals into COVID-19 patients.

The researchers found that the ELISA tests had an 80% probability or greater of comparable antibody level to VN lev-

els at or above the FDA-recommended levels for COVID-19 convalescent plasma. These results affirm that all three types of tests could potentially serve as a quantitative target for therapeutic and prophylactic treatments.

This study was supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Fondren Foundation,

the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Army Research Office, Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston Methodist Infectious Diseases Research Fund, Houston Methodist Research Institute and seed funding from the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences for the studies at Penn State, together with the Huck Dis-

tinguished Chair in Global Health award. Funding was also provided through the CARES Act, with programmatic oversight from the Military Infectious Diseases Research Program.

For more information, contact: Marc Airhart, College of Natural Sciences, 512-232-1066; Nat Levy, Cockrell School of Engineering.



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It is important where the obituary of a loved one appears. We have been catering to the DFW African American community for more than three decades now. We not only cover the issues, but celebrate the lives and legacies of our local community. Contact ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com



Vistra strengthens commitment to provide laptops to low-income students

Irving-based Vistra (NYSE: VST) announced this week it has capped-off a summer giving campaign to provide laptops to low-income students ahead of the 2020-21 school year.

The company has partnered with Comp-U-Dopt, a non-profit organization that provides technology access and education to underserved youth. Vistra's \$230,000 donation, through its retail electric brands



TXU Energy and Dynegey, supports Comp-U-Dopt programs in Chicago, Dal-

las, and Fort Worth, with the funds going directly to the purchase of nearly 2,000

refurbished, free-of-charge laptops for families without a computer in the home.

"We understand that this school year is different than any other," said Curt Morgan, Vistra's president and chief executive officer. "We also recognize that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted low-income Americans, including those with school-age children for whom buying the bare essentials is challenging

enough – to say nothing of bridging the digital divide. The need to do so is pressing: students without a computer are at risk of losing months of educational opportunity compared to peers with the proper equipment. Comp-U-Dopt's innovative program helps ensure those children do not fall behind and are positioned for success despite the obstacles. We're proud to support their work and look forward

to continuing to do so well into the future."

Vistra's commitment to the Comp-U-Dopt program is part of its previously-announced \$2 million donation to non-profits and social service agencies that provide direct relief for people with critical needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in the communities it serves. This

See VISTRA, Page 15

THOMAS, from Page 1

community..." Thomas does, however, believe strongly in the power of protest and encourages people to speak out, but with one reservation, "Express your outrage, but don't destroy your own community."

Even before the Death of Floyd came the death of Botham Jean, who was shot to death by a Dallas police officer as he sat comfortably eating ice cream in the sanctity of his Dallas apartment. Citizens witnessed the city torn between the offending officer's guilt or innocence. Citizens the witnessed unpredictable conflict over Jean being honored with the renaming of Lamar Street.

Thomas states succinctly, "I'm in favor of (renaming Lamar Street to honor Jean)." Although the idea was not his own, he reveals that "I talked to Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano, who is the councilman for that district. As a matter of fact, he reached out to me about it initially. I wanted to make sure he had talked to some of the business owners in that area because those are the ones that would be impacted the most by renaming the street...I told (Medrano) I would support it."

Dallas police have historically brandished a get-tough-on-Blacks policy. Still, the optimistic Thomas is seeing some signs of successfully changing that get-tough policy.

Thomas expectantly states, "I think we're moving in the right direction. I think that some of the policy changes that (Chief Renee Hall) started to implement around the time of the pro-

tests were good." Thomas points out that the Obama Foundation proposed 8 actions that were required to change the policies of abrasive interaction between police departments and minority citizens. "Dallas is moving in that direction. We've got six of the Obama proposed actions completed. We have two more to do." Thomas credits Chief Hall for the implementation of those changes. "That's why the City Manager asked Chief Hall to stay on until the end of the year so that we can implement those last two policy changes. So, when a new chief comes in, they won't have to deal with that responsibility."

Yet Thomas admits, as it is with anyone, there is an upside as well as a downside to Chief Hall.

"The pros were that she was very approachable, very relatable, she wanted to be out in the community much more, and she was receptive to moving to a police review board." The downside to Chief Hall, Thomas suggests, was her failure to have advisors close to her who knew the inner-workings of Dallas. Thomas, who characterizes Chief Hall as "a cop's cop," suggests that Chief Hall also could have been more receptive to some of the recommendations made by the community. "Dallas has a culture of its own," Thomas stated unapologetically.

Thomas does confess, though, that some people became "disenchanted" with Chief Hall solely based on those three fate-filled nights of the George Floyd

protests, while there were others who considered the fact that Chief Hall is an African American female who was given a fair chance at succeeding. "We should give her the same latitude that we would give a white male police chief," Thomas insists. "Two schools of thought were that she had people on the inside working against her, while others believed that she was in over her head."

Concerning racism in the ranks of DPD, Thomas fell short of saying that it may be prevalent, but he would not deny the existence of racism among DPD's ranks.

"I think race does play a part. One of the best things we've done as a city through the police department was implementing the bias training and having police officers to do that training annually. So, people can see what it is they come to the table with. The biases they have against Black and brown males that they may not even be aware of. But because they do the implicit biased training they (police officers) begin to see that what I thought was natural or innate, I was taught this."

At the "horseshoe" in recent days, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson finally submitted his \$3.8 billion budget again. It was rejected again. That budget is up for a final vote on September 23rd. Thomas discusses some of the causes of the budget's original rejection.

"A couple of things," Thomas begins. "The Mayor didn't take the time—in advance—to spend time with the council discussing why (the proposed budget) was important to him, how

it would make a difference, why he was doing it... (The budget) was thrust upon us at the meeting. (The council) may have seen the amendment, but we didn't know the rationale of the amendment." Thomas and other council members felt that the Mayor seeking to save \$6 million of a \$3.8 billion budget wouldn't have a great impact; and to cut that \$6 million from the salary of city officials would cause those employees to exit city service for the private sector.

If nothing else, and despite being raised in the city, the Mayor, too, is finding out in a lot of ways that Dallas has its own culture and its own way of getting things done. One of those lessons came when angry protestors picketed the Mayor's home, and they would not relent even in the face of a thunderstorm.

"I don't think it's about (African Americans) hav-

ing an aversion to the Mayor," Thomas shares with some concession. "The Mayor has experience as an elected official at the state level, but (Dallas) doesn't have a strong mayoral system. The City Manager runs the day-to-day operation of a city. So (in Dallas' system of government) the mayor doesn't have that authority," explains Thomas. When the Mayor's home was picketed by a group of rancorous African Americans, Thomas says that episode could have been avoided. "If there was a possibility of that being avoided it would have been (the Mayor) having an actual conversation with the protest leaders about the various proposals of defunding the DPD. As opposed to saying, 'You know what, I'm not going to meet with you.'"

Thomas's final thoughts and message to his constit-

uents.

"This is a moment (in history) that many people have been looking forward to for a long time, where we are focused on social justice and racial equity. Seize the moment. Seize the moment not just by protesting, rioting, and looting standpoint, but by a policy standpoint. Identify what policies you would like to see changed. Recommend how you would have more money go into the Black and brown communities when it comes to public safety in particular... I'm a firm believer that if you address the root causes of crime and poverty, it will decrease the amount of crime that you have in your neighborhood."

"How do you advocate for social justice and at the same time not make sure the people who are less than—those who are the least of these—that their needs are met?"

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Call for entries to virtual business pitch competition for Black entrepreneurs

Black Connect Partners with Silicon Valley Bank for Tech Gives Back 2020

TAMPA -- Black Connect announces the call for entries to FeverPitch - a virtual business pitch competition. This year, FeverPitch is being presented by Black Connect in partnership with Silicon Valley Bank as part of Tech Gives Back 2020. FeverPitch will be hosted live on Blackconnect.org on Thursday, October 8, 2020, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST. Current and aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners are invited to submit entries until Sep-



Taylor Grote / Unsplash

tember 18 2020 at blackconnect.org/feverpitch-entry.

FeverPitch is an initiative curated by Black Connect

that provides a platform for Black entrepreneurs and business owners across all industries to gain insight from and exposure to ven-

ture capitalists and potential investors, community and corporate leaders, executives, seasoned and successful entrepreneurs and professional, disruptors and more.

"The goal of FeverPitch is to build, empower and boost Black Connect's startup ecosystem and entrepreneurship by bringing entrepreneurs, corporates, investors and the public together, helping to create innovation and networking hubs and populate and culti-

vate Black Connect's pipeline of entrepreneurs," says Alvin Jones, II, Executive Director of Black Connect.

Participants will have the opportunity to be coached by 100 professionals, venture capitalists, and successful entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley Bank who are participating in Tech Gives Back 2020.

Submissions will be judged on viability, presentation, innovation, readiness, and impact. Ideas in development, as well as

developed products, will be accepted and considered. 10 Finalists will be selected to pitch in the virtual event on October 8th.

Submit business plans, pitch deck, videos, photos, and/or resume to feverpitch@blackconnect.org. Those without a business plan or pitch deck may apply by completing the entry form at blackconnect.org/feverpitch-entry.

The deadline for entries is Friday, September 18, 2020.

Two Frisco mosquito pools test positive for West Nile Virus

The City of Frisco will increase surveillance after receiving confirmation that two mosquito pools tested 'positive' for West Nile Virus (WNV). Due to the most recent rains no treatment will be scheduled for application at this time; however, the surveillance process includes looking for increased areas of stagnant water that may support

mosquito breeding.

The city is increasing surveillance efforts in public areas along Hickory Street near Oakbrook Park and North County Road near Warren Sports Complex.

"In response, staff will be observing these areas more closely," said Julie Fernandez, Environmental Health Supervisor. "The increased eyes on the situation will

help us identify any potential breeding grounds. At that time, we would apply treatment."

The City of Frisco supports four precautionary habits, commonly referred to as the 4Ds, promoted by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

DEET: Use approved insect repellents every time you go outside. Approved

repellents contain DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow label instructions.

DRAIN: Drain standing water that collects in bird baths, French drains, clogged gutters, saucers under potted plants and 'splash blocks' (at end of gutter down spout). The mosquitoes that carry WNV can breed in stagnant water.

DRESS: Wear long sleeves, pants at dawn and dusk (when mosquitoes are most active).

DAWN/DUSK: Use air conditioning. Make sure doors and windows are screened and those screens are intact.

No human cases of the virus are confirmed in Frisco. These 'positive' pool confirmations bring the to-

tal to twelve in Frisco this year.

In accordance with its Mosquito Surveillance and Response Plan, Frisco began testing for mosquitoes May 1. For more information on the city's plan, please visit Friscotexas.gov/Mosquitoes or contact the City of Frisco's Health & Food Safety Division at 972-292-5304.

DEC, from Page 5

from \$7,500 to \$25,000. The companies reflect the diversity of small businesses in North Texas, including medical clinics, retail and food service outlets, special events and services firms and more. More importantly, the fund recipients reflect the ethnic and gender diversity of business leadership in Dallas.

"We are proud that 75% of the Revive Dallas fund recipients are minority

owned businesses and 60% of the recipients are businesses owned by women," said Chinn. "The DEC Network is committed to supporting those historically disadvantaged business communities as part of our mission to support the entire entrepreneurial ecosystem here in North Texas."

A second round of funding is beginning now. Apply at ReviveDallasFund.com. Businesses must have

operating since Aug. 1, 2019, be located in Dallas, have 15 or fewer employees, have a 2019 annual revenue of less than \$1.5 million and must be able to demonstrate a 15% or more loss of business due to Covid-19. Formal applications will be accepted through Sept. 14, and funding will begin the week of Sept. 21.

Donations are still being accepted for the Revive Dallas fund. Major donors include professional organizations, corporations,

foundations and individuals. Donations to the Revive Dallas fund are tax-deductible at ReviveDallasFund.com.

To arrange interviews with Revive Dallas loan recipients or with The DEC

Network, please contact Kelly Hunter at kelly@shiromasouthwest.com or 972-489-4361.

FLIP, from Page 5

Texas is the most important state in the country for 2021 redistricting as it is set to gain multiple new congressional seats as a result of the census and it's a state where Republicans have historically gerrymandered dozens of districts because they controlled all three branches of government. Texas has also been one of the worst offenders for voter suppression in Amer-

ica as GOP legislators have passed extreme laws federal courts have ruled were designed to turn people of color away from the polls.

The opportunity to flip Texas in 2020 has only increased with Joe Biden leading several state polls at the top of the ticket and with voters seeing more and more each day the degree to which state government impacts their daily

lives in the midst of this deadly pandemic.

The districts needed to flip the Texas state house are concentrated in the Dallas and Houston suburbs - areas that are much more Democratic than other parts of the state and districts that not only Beto O'Rourke won in 2018 but also several that Hillary Clinton carried in 2016, positioning the State House to flip even if Joe Biden doesn't win statewide.



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*Preproduction computer generated image shown. Available late 2020.

Season-opening loss was too familiar for Cowboys fans

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

Forgive the Dallas Cowboys' fans if they woke up the morning following the team's season-opening 20-17 loss to the Los Angeles Rams feeling like they've seen this movie before.

Too many times over the past several years the Cowboys fans vilified previous head coach Jason Garrett for questionable play-calling that they felt cost their favorite team a chance at pulling out a victory. Well, it happened again – this time with Mike McCarthy making his debut as the Cowboys' head coach.

With the Cowboys facing a fourth-and-3 from the Rams' 11 while trailing by three points with less than 12 minutes remaining in the game, McCarthy went for it on fourth down while passing up a shot at kicking a 28-yard field goal that would have tied the game. However, a completed pass from quarterback Dak Prescott to rookie wide receiver CeeDee Lamb fell one-yard shy of a first down, and the Rams used that defensive momentum to get the Cowboys' season off on



All Pro Reels / Flickr

the wrong foot.

So why did McCarthy decide to pass up the chance to tie the game in favor of the risky chance of trying to get a first down?

"The conservative play there is to kick the field goal, but I just felt really good about how we were moving the football," he said. "You've got to trust your players. I want our offensive guys to play wide open – we have that capability."

"I'll pull back when I feel like it's in the best interest of the team. I clearly recognized it was a three-point game and we still had a lot of time left. I just felt that it would have been a huge momentum play for us."

Prescott, who was 25-of-39 for 266 yards and a touchdown, had no qualms about McCarthy putting

faith in his team to possibly keep the drive alive with a first down.

"I love the aggressiveness," Prescott said. "I think that was a point in the game that when we get that first down and we're able to punch it in the end zone, we're looking at a whole different ballgame. I think it was a momentum chance. I love the play-call. We just weren't able to get it."

"Our coach is going to put it in our hands, he expects us to go make those plays, he trusts us to do that. He's going to call the game aggressive and you've got to appreciate that. I know I do as a quarterback and I'm pretty sure the rest of the guys do as an offense. So as a said, it's up to us to execute better right there and to make sure that play is a first down and

we get the momentum going and we try to capitalize and do exactly what coach had in mind there."

That controversial decision by McCarthy notwithstanding, the Cowboys had one last chance to either force an overtime, or perhaps get out of the Rams' brand new \$5 billion SoFi Stadium with a victory. But a 47-yard pass from Prescott to Michael Gallup that carried to the Rams' 16-yard line with less than a minute remaining in the game was nullified when Gallup was flagged for offensive pass interference after the referees claimed that he pushed cornerback Jalen Ramsey.

"Just watching it live, it looked like two guys hand-fighting," McCarthy said. "I thought it was well-executed. I was surprised there was a call there either way."

"We're very obviously disappointed in the call, particularly at that point in the game. I thought they let both teams play (Sunday), and you just don't usually

see that, particularly in a critical point in the game."

The loss continued a worrisome trend by the Cowboys, who were 1-6 in one-possession games last season. That was the second-worst record in the NFL in that scenario.

In a game that was played with no fans in the stands due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Cowboys quickly fell behind 7-0 before a 19-yard scoring strike from Prescott to running back Ezekiel Elliott tied the game at 7-7 early in the second quarter.

Elliott also had a one-yard TD burst with 17 seconds left in the second quarter that put the Cowboys ahead,

14-13, at halftime. Thus, he became the first player in the Cowboys' 61-year history to have both a rushing and receiving touchdown in the franchise's season opener.

Overall, Elliott rushed 22 times for 96 yards and had three receptions for 31 yards, and Amari Cooper caught 10 passes for 81 yards. Meanwhile, quarterback Jared Goff and the Rams' offensive attack bludgeoned the Cowboys' defense for 422 yards, and were a very efficient 9-of-17 on third down plays.

By contrast, the Cowboys were just 3-of-12 on third down plays and collected

See COWBOYS, Page 11



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NDG Book Review: 'The Awkward Black Man: Stories'

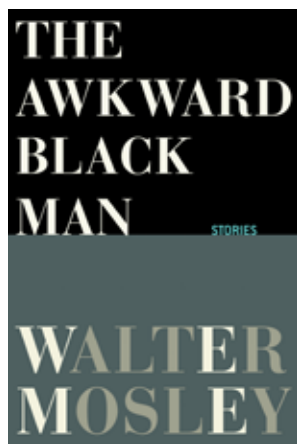
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Right now, you're living your best life.

That's all. It's not complicated: you roll with whatever happens, and try not to worry; your path is before you, and you're light-footed enough to react swiftly if needed. Flexible, that's the way to be because, as in "The Awkward Black Man," a collection of stories by Walter Mosley, plans can go south in a minute.

Sampson Diehl was finally dropping some weight and he looked great. The bad news was that he had cancer. But he also had money, a soon-to-be-ex wife, a girlfriend, and a private nurse. In "The Good News Is," that's a lot for one man to lose.

When Alyce walked out of his life, Albert Roundhouse hoped that someday, she might come back. Nobody'd ever take her place, though he met other women as he traveled the world and lived off the



kindness of others and the money he could beg – and then he saw Frankie, and in "Almost Alyce," Frankie could've been Alyce's sister, maybe, nearly, except for that little job she hired Albert to do...

When his wife, Marguerite, cheated on him, Jared took her back because, well, he loved her. But then the spark went out of their marriage and she ruined his dreams. In "Starting Over," Jared didn't understand why Marguerite did what she did, until a co-worker

said something that struck him right in the heart.

On the afternoon that Chase Martin ran away from school, he was sure the police were looking for him. Instead of cops, though, Chase was found in the woods by a homeless man who seemed to be troubled. When the man turned out to be a thief, Chase lost everything but in "Otis," he gained something, too.

Six months after his brother, Seth, died, a strange man visited Roger with a message from beyond. Roger and Seth were never close, not even as kids, but in "Reply to a Dead Man," Seth had plenty to say.

Imagine, if you will, a

man with a heavy sigh on his lips, shaking his head ruefully as though he can't quite believe what's happening. That's the idea of what to expect in "The Awkward Black Man."

The stories inside this book are like a rained-out Saturday afternoon event. They're like a bad car battery when you just bought four tires. Like inkstains on a brand-new shirt: irksome, not life-or-death, but leaving you wondering what you did to deserve this. But here: though these tales might remind you of a busted shoelace on your favorite kicks, you're going to love every one of them because author Walter Mos-

ley is the kind of storyteller that makes his characters' worst days into something you can recognize and relate to.

Been there. Done that. Lived, too. Gonna be okay. Fans of Mosley don't

need to be told twice to go find this book. Just go. If you're new to Mosley but you love short stories, though, "The Awkward Black Man" might be the best book for your life right now.

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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot 6-inch Monopole Small Cell Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 382 S. Pearl Expy., Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75201, Lat: [32-46-48.7992], Long: [-96-47-29.3598]. 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.*

COWBOYS from Page 10

380 total yards.

"I thought we started a little sluggish at the beginning of the game defensively with a couple of pre-snap penalties," McCarthy said. "We knew coming in here they do an excellent job, are well experienced with playing cadence football and certainly particularly situational cadence football. So we definitely need to improve from that."

In addition to the loss, the Cowboys also lost linebacker Leighton Vander Esch and tight end Blake Jarwin to injuries. Vander Esch will have surgery to repair a fractured clavicle, while Jarwin suffered a knee injury on a non-contact play.

"It's tough to see guys, particularly some of your key guys, get hurt starting the season that way," McCarthy said. "But we'll obviously rebound from that."

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot 6-inch monopole small cell communications tower light pole at the approx. vicinity of 2544 North Haskell Avenue, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75204; 32° 48' 18.7596" N, 96° 47' 24.3060" 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, Tyler Sadutto, t.sadutto@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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Amazon's pandemic price gouging shows need for new federal law

Amazon is price gouging customers on a wide range of essential goods – jacking up prices on face masks, toilet paper and antibacterial soap by up to 1,000% – as shown in a Public Citizen report released today. The report documents a pattern of outrageous price increases for products listed as “sold by Amazon” as well as those sold by third parties.

“Amazon has fundamentally misled the public, law enforcement and policymakers about price increases during the pandemic,” said Alex Harman, competition policy advocate for Public Citizen and author of the report. “Amazon has publicly blamed third-party sellers for price increases while continuing to raise prices on its own products and allowing those sellers to increase their prices. The facts demonstrate the need for a federal price gouging law and for Amazon to implement major reforms to its pricing and product listing practices.”

This report details 15 essential products that have been sold by Amazon during the COVID-19 pandemic with markups over the recent price on Amazon.com or other national retailers ranging from 76% to more than 1,000%, and 10 additional essential products sold on Amazon by third-party sellers during the same period



Rupixen / Unsplash

with markups ranging from 225% to 941%. Here are some of the price increases documented in the report:

- A pack of 50 disposable face masks increased by 1,000%;
- Dial liquid antibacterial hand soap increased by 470%;
- A pack of 100 disposable hand gloves increased by 336%;
- A pack of eight 1000-sheet toilet paper rolls increased by 528%;
- A pack of eight Brawny paper towels increased by 303%;
- A five-pound eight-pack of Pillsbury unbleached flour increased by 425%;
- A one-pound box of Domino powdered sugar increased by 520%; and
- A 6.5-ounce pack of Clabber Girl corn starch increased by 1,010%.

By March 18, every U.S. state and territory had de-

clared an emergency in response to the pandemic, triggering state-level price gouging statutes across the country. Price gouging is illegal in about 35 states, with some states prohibiting price increases of as little as 10%. But the nature of online platforms, which transcend state borders, has made price gouging enforcement increasingly difficult at the state level. And in June, a federal court in Kentucky ruled that state-level price gouging laws are unconstitutional because they attempt to regulate prices outside of the state. A federal price gouging law is urgently needed, Public Citizen insists.

Amazon supports a federal law but only one that would immunize it from liability for price gouging by third parties that sell on its platform. And instead of policing price gouging on its

platform as it promised early in the pandemic, Amazon coordinated a public relations campaign attempting to wash its hands of price gouging, laying the blame entirely on third-party sellers.

Public Citizen is calling for a federal price gouging law that provides a clear and unambiguous definition of price gouging; includes a very broad list of products, goods and services; establishes significant civil penalties enforceable by the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general; applies wherever price gouging occurs in the supply chain; and is applicable during the current COVID-19 pandemic as well as a future disaster or health emergency.

Public Citizen also is calling on Amazon to implement major reforms to its product listing and pricing, including: publishing a suggested retail price, average price and a link to price history next to every item; capping price increases on all products; ending the creation of new product pages for products previously listed; listing multi-pack items with individual item prices and requiring that multi-packs offer a quantity discount; separating the data on price listings and customer reviews for each item type on listings with multiple vari-

eties; and creating a button that allows customers to report a product listing or pricing problem.

“Amazon is not a victim in the price gouging on its marketplace – it is a perpetrator,” Harman added. “Price gouging is an insidi-

ous exploitation of the most vulnerable, especially during a national emergency. There is no excuse for Amazon, one of the largest and most successful corporations in history, to take advantage of vulnerable, scared consumers.”

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless proposes to construct a 36-foot 6-inch monopole small cell Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 405 S Akard St., Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75202, Lat: [32-46-41.8476], Long: [-96-47-56.8644]. 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.*

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct two 36-foot 6-inch small cell monopole communications towers in the vicinity of Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75202. The locations for the proposed installations area as follows: approx. vicinity of 204 N Record St, Lat: [32° 46' 47.6904" N], Long: [96° 48' 25.7292" W]; approx. vicinity of 506 Ross Ave, Lat: [32° 46' 51.6036" N], Long: [96° 48' 29.8764" 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, Thomas Johnston, t.johnston@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*



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The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot 6-inch monopole small cell Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 7729 Caruth Blvd, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75225, Lat: [32° 51' 32.2734" N], Long: [96° 46' 26.13" 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, Thomas Johnston, t.johnston@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

JOB FAIRS

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

The United States Army is hiring for over 150 different career fields.

PART TIME OPPORTUNITIES - 1 weekend a month, 2 weeks in the early summer. Stay local. Money for school, healthcare, paid drills and skill training, and up to \$20,000 enlistment bonus.

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

Prerequisites:

- GED/High School Diploma
- Between the ages of 17-34
- 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.

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*

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.

September 20, 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.

September 23, 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

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

vices until further notice because of the coronavirus.

September 20

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.

September 23, 7 pm

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

See CHURCH, Page 14



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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36.5-foot Public Lighting Structure Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 3749 Turtle Creek Blvd, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75219. 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, Patricia Rees, p.rees@trileaf.com, 2121 W. Chandler Blvd., Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480-850-0575.*



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Construction
Company**

An Equal Opportunity Employer

September 1, 2020

Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- **Paving Machine Operator**
- **CDL Drivers (Haul Truck)**
- **Dozer Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Finishers (Structures, Paving)**
- **Loader Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Form Setters (Structures, Paving)**
- **Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Laborers (Structures, Earthwork, Paving)**
- **Excavator Operator (Underground, Earthwork)**

Available: multiple openings

Rate: Negotiable

Must have own transportation

Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background

Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs)

**Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
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**Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers
Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com**

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Death Notices - ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com

Charles Staff Jones Sr.
Born: 09/28/1946
Died: 08/15/2020
Visitation: Friday, August 28, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 11 a.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Percy Parazette
Fletcher Morrow
Born: 09/16/1960
Died: 08/24/2020
Wake: Friday, August 28, 2020 from 7-8 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Calvary Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Charles Edward Leonard, Sr.
Born: 04/09/1955
Died: 08/20/2020
Visitation: Friday, August 28, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 11 a.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Joe Leaks
Born: 12/14/1935
Died: 08/18/2020
Visitation: Monday, August 24, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 25, 2020 at 11 a.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Jordy Gutierrez
Born: 07/21/2001
Died: 08/20/2020
Visitation: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral Mass: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 10 a.m. at St. John Catholic Church
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of Ennis

Carver Reed Malone, Sr.
Born: 12/16/1938
Died: 08/18/2020
Memorial Service: Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 2 p.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

David Sanders Jr.
Born: 12/28/1943
Died: 08/14/2020

Visitation: Friday, August 21, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 11 a.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Tom Alton Hall Jr.
Born: 08/08/1972
Died: 08/08/2020
Visitation: Friday, August 21, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 11 a.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of Dallas

Betty Tasby
Born: 08/22/1952
Died: 08/11/2020
Visitation: Friday, August 21, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.

Funeral: Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 2 p.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Mildred Thomas
Born: 05/21/1943
Died: 08/15/2020
Visitation: Friday, August 21, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 2 p.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

J. L. Griffin Sr.
Born: 03/02/1946
Died: 08/13/2020
Visitation: Friday, August 21, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Graveside Service: Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 11 a.m.

Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Johnnie Davis
Born: 03/05/1953
Died: 08/15/2020
Visitation: Friday, August 21, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 4 p.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

Baby Truth Lafayette Wilson
Born: 06/22/2020
Died: 08/16/2020
Celebration Service: Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 4 p.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral Home of DeSoto

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
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org
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.

September 18, 7 pm
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

September 20, 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.

September 21, 7 pm
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

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.

September 20, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

September 21, 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).

September 23, 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

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



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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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When Others Fail You



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you’”

(John 20:21-22).

Have you ever entrusted someone to carry on a project only to have them fail miserably? What was your response? Many times leaders shame others in order to help them realize the gravity of their failure.

A man named Bill ran a manufacturing company. His executive management team sought to take over the company in a hostile corporate takeover. It was unsuccessful. Bill would have to manage the same team that betrayed him.

When Jesus was crucified many of the disciples fled. Peter denied Jesus three times. He was a leader without followers. Jesus has now come back to life. How will Jesus handle this reunion among those who have totally abandoned Him and the mission?

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace



Sister Tarpley and her children: (L to R) Jarrell, Sheila and Carl.

be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21-22). What an incredible greeting after all they had experienced. No shame. No harsh words. Just a reaffirmation of the mission and His commitment to them.

Jesus used grace and total acceptance as motivation for His followers to carry on the mission.

He didn’t need to remind

them of their failure. They already felt bad enough. It was time to recast the vision with new life. When there is failure in the organization, it is more important to revitalize the team, not focus on the past.

Do you need to rally your team around a mission that has stalled, failed or gotten off track? Begin by affirming those under your leadership. Be at peace and send them forth!

VISTRA, from Page 7

effort to equip students with the technology they need to navigate online learning is consistent with key focus areas of the company’s giving policy – to enhance educational opportunities and support community welfare.

“The COVID-19 outbreak and school closures has magnified the need to get more computers to students and families without

access at home,” added Megan Steckly, Comp-U-Dopt’s chief executive officer. “Vistra’s support directly advances that goal and allows us to significantly increase our inventory at the most pressing time of the year. We are immensely grateful for their support, advocacy, and belief in our mission.”

According to the Pew Research Institute, 46% of

low-income families lack access to a computer at home. With supply chain delays and the global demand for devices at an all-time high, Comp-U-Dopt’s mission to provide technology access and education to underserved youth is needed now, more than ever.

“Doing business the right way means looking beyond our four walls to take care of the communities where our customers and employees live and work,” Morgan

continued. “All students deserve to be equipped with the tools they need to be successful, and we’re optimistic that these computers will provide them the confidence to tackle the school year.”

NDG^{tv} 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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VALSARTAN LAWSUIT

The Valsartan lawsuits claim that numerous batches of Valsartan have been found to be contaminated with the cancer-causing substances N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA). Our law firm is accepting clients who took Valsartan and have been diagnosed with liver, intestine, colon or colorectal, stomach, esophageal, pancreatic, prostate, NHL or other blood cancers.

WE WILL BE SEEKING DAMAGES FOR YOU

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Our firm is investigating cases where you or a loved one were exposed to Valsartan for at least a year and have been diagnosed with one of the above- mentioned cancers.

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