

"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part." - John Lewis



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VOLUME 72 NUMBER 46

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

July 30 - August 5, 2020

Body of civil rights icon John Lewis crosses Selma Bridge

By KIM CHANDLER

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — The late U.S. Rep. John Lewis crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, for the final time Sunday as remembrances continue for the civil rights icon.

The bridge became a landmark in the fight for racial justice when Lewis and other civil rights marchers were beaten there 55 years ago on “Bloody Sunday,” a key event that helped galvanize support for the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Lewis returned to Selma each March in commemoration.

Sunday found him crossing alone — instead of arm-in-arm with civil rights and political leaders — after his coffin was

loaded atop a horse-drawn wagon that retraced the route through Selma from Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where the 1965 march began.

As the black wagon pulled by a team of dark-colored horses approached the bridge, members of the crowd shouted “Thank you, John Lewis!” and “Good trouble!” the phrase Lewis used to describe his tangles with white authorities during the civil rights movement.

Some crowd members sang the gospel song “Woke up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Jesus.” Later, some onlookers sang the civil rights anthem “We Shall Overcome” and other gospel tunes.

See PAGE 6



The casket of Rep. John Lewis moves over the Edmund Pettus Bridge by horse drawn carriage during a memorial service for Lewis, Sunday, July 26, 2020, in Selma, Ala. Lewis, who carried the struggle against racial discrimination from Southern battlegrounds of the 1960s to the halls of Congress, died Friday, July 17, 2020. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

*“I’m freeing myself with my mind stayed on Jesus...Hallelujah...
I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus”*

George Floyd’s family gathers in Virginia to unveil hologram



AP Photo/Steve Helber

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The family of George Floyd witnessed the unveiling of a hologram in Virginia Tuesday night, where flickering lights came together to create an image of Floyd’s head and shoulders transposed over the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee statue.

The event in Richmond on historic Monument Avenue was the first public unveiling of the George Floyd Hologram Memorial Project. A press release says the project

aims to “transform spaces that were formerly occupied by racist symbols of America’s dark Confederate past into a message of hope, solidarity and forward-thinking change.”

Floyd was a Black man who died after being pinned to the ground by a white police officer in Minneapolis in May, sparking protests across the country calling for criminal justice reform across the nation. The Richmond-Times

Dispatch reported that the project’s week-long tour will take it to a number of cities in North Carolina and Georgia mirroring the route of the 1961 Freedom Rides.

The hologram features a myriad of lights that swarm like fireflies to form into a 3-D image of Floyd, with his name depicted around his image. The tour is organized by Change.org and The George Floyd Foundation.

Dallas ISD Board of Trustees approves changes to school year calendar

BY THE HUB

During the July 23 called board meeting, the Dallas Independent School District’s Board of Trustees approved several changes to the 2020-21 school year calendar.

The approved changes to the calendar, which you can see here, are:

- The first day of school moves from Aug. 17 to Sept. 8.
- The last day of school moves from May 27, 2021, to June 18, 2021
- Previously planned holidays in October are removed due to the cancellation of the State Fair.
- Tuesday, November 3, 2020, is added as a holiday.
- Grading periods are increased from six-week to nine-week periods.

CHANGES TO 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

New Start Date	No Fair Days	New Holiday
Sept. 8	October	Tuesday, Nov. 3
9-Week Grading Periods	Last Day of School	
	June 18, 2021	

The COVID-19 threat closer to the start of school will determine whether the district offers online learning only when school first starts or have the option of in-person or online learning. Safety reentry materials can be found at <https://www.dallasisd.org/reentry>.



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EDITORIAL PAGE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD



By **Shirley Gray,**
Publisher of The Dallas Post Tribune Newspaper

The recent deaths of; C.T. Vivian, Rev. Joseph Lowery, Rep John Lewis, and earlier this year, Representative Elijah Cummings. All signal the passing of those who have guarded our freedom and led the fight for equality. These men were not giants. They were mere mortals like you and me who were brave enough to commit to what they believed in and do so because the outcome

involved more than themselves.

If we look back at their lives, we will find they did not become great, but they became great because they set out to make a difference. The differences they made came at great personal cost to each. For Representative John Robert Lewis, we have been able to visit that cost through the film footage of such things as Bloody Sunday, where Civil Rights demonstrators were beaten, hosed by police and chased on horseback while marching for the right to vote. We gained that victory with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and lost most of it with a bad U.S. Supreme Court Decision just a few years ago.

We who are today fighting for such things as an

end to police brutality, the stopping of voter suppression, and the reenactment of the Voting Rights Act, which would restore that which the U.S. Supreme Court decision took away, must ensure that their deaths and the legacies these men left do not die with them. Our committed involvement in the fight that they lead for us ensures that we convert their deaths into a “changing of the guard” and not the death of those guardians.

Locally, the lives and legacies of such activists as A. Maceo Smith, Rev. Peter Johnson, Juanita Craft, Elsie Faye Heggins, and Dr. Richard Theodore Hamilton must continue with the same commitment and selflessness that made them great. Those of us who are here must

ensure that “the strong keep on coming.” We must be strong and committed because of the men and women on whose shoulders we stand. This movement is bigger than “Black Lives Matter” and the COVID Pandemic. Those who see the fight for human rights, life, and dignity know that the battle is as severe as the pandemic. They also see police brutality as a danger as great as the pandemic itself.

We can each become participants in this battle. We can register to vote; join the demands for change at all levels of government, and add our voices, money, and bodies to the struggle. Where will you stand during this changing of the guard?

This is so important today.

Big Mac Racism at McDonald's (End of Part 1)

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

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.”

Chatman agreed and said that they are also arguing that McDonald's will try to argue that their promotion and demotion policies are neutral

because they are based on data, not race. The racially hostile work environment had a particularly destructive impact upon Black employees, including Domineca and Vicki.

“The crux of it is that, under Easterbrook and now Kempczinski, McDonald's is not interested in, or focused upon, Black customers, Black franchisees or Black executives, as evidenced by how they decimated their ranks at the corporate level,” she said. “Domineca and Vicki were forced to witness McDonald's blatantly deemphasize Black people and the effect upon them was terrible,” Chatman said. “I mean, how are they supposed to work in an environment that is openly hostile to people who look like them.”

Neal said when Kempczinski was told about concerns that there weren't any Blacks on his U.S. President executive team, he said he can ask questions “the numbers don't matter.”

“But, the numbers do matter,” Chatman said

Caruso said the bottom line is that they are alleging their clients were victims of intentional discrimination and it came from the very top of the McDonald's organization in the person of Steve Easterbrook and Christopher Kempczinski. “It was not an accident



that all this happened to Domineca and Vicki, and other African Americans in the company,” he said. Neal, reflecting on her time at McDonald's recalled how happy she was to join the organization in 2011 precisely because of its reputation for embracing the African American community.

“And we embraced them, and that was shown through the loyalty to the brand, the representation of African American talent at all levels throughout the organization and the opportunities to create wealth for the African American owner-operators which was also very inspiring and a representation of their diversity and inclusion values,” she said.

Now, after leaving the corporation in March, Neal still finds the swift turnabout in the company's attitude and values – after nearly 50 years of progress – disconcerting. She said the whole “angry Black woman” incident

felt as if she was living in an episode of Mad Men.

She is left to wonder how sincere the corporation was about diversity and inclusion in the first place. She noted things would never have had gotten out of hand as it did if the Board of Directors had come down on the executives. But they didn't.

“It was very disheartening, heartbreaking, and shocking because I think that we're at a stage in society, where we know that's language that is racial in nature and stereotypical and used in a manner to quiet African American women from being able to comfortably bring their authentic selves to the workplace,” Neal said.

(Part 2 of Big Mac Attack on Blacks: Black McDonald's Owner-Operators Caught between a Rock and Hard Place as Black Executives Fight for Fairness and Corporation Demands Loyalty, next week)

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Sammie Berry
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Sunday Bible School
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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.
Support Groups 6:30 p.m.

A Journey Through the Gospel of St. John

"What A Well Of A Meeting"
(Part IV)
St. John 4:20-30

Again, we are visiting the account of Jesus' meeting with the woman of Samaria - an account that offers the marvelous condescension of our blessed Lord, even His magnificent grace, as He deals with a Samaritan outcast, a nobody of society! As I continue to read this account, I am impressed with the patience and tenderness with which our Lord displays as He deals with a Samaritan outcast, whose ignorance of spiritual matters is greatly exposed. Again, I was so stirred in the way in which our Savior employs tact as He carefully guides His meeting with this Samaritan dissolute, as He deals with

what they had in common (the need for water), skillfully lifting the conversation from the sense of needing physical water to the grave matter of her soul needing spiritual nourishment - a nourishment that only the Lord is adequate and sufficient to provide. At the point of our last article, Jesus had masterfully led this Samaritan outcast to a point of confession and conviction as she exclaims - "Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet." Indeed, Jesus is a prophet - God's spokesman to a dying race of Adamic descendants. As with this Samaritan outcast, every descendant of Adam's accused and accursed race, needs an encounter with God's spokesman from heaven, Jesus Christ, and like the Samaritan outcast, we needed the "gift of God," even the offer of "living water." "Living water" refers to the impartation of new life, which is salvation, for salvation comes as a gift from Jesus Christ, the matchless Son of God. Yes, God's final spokesman, Jesus Christ, condescended to this world to offer salvation to

mankind as He paid in full the consummate debt that Adam's sin had caused, having to die on an old rugged cross for your sins and mine. Thank God that Christ's work on the cross is finished, and God's free gift of salvation is extended to all mankind, regardless to his racial distinction, or social status, or economic prowess in life. Salvation is there for the offering; all mankind needs to do is to accept God's free offer by simply believing the Gospel's report - believing that "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Simply put, the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When one truly accepts that historical verity in his or her heart by faith, the bible assures that person that salvation is a reality in that person's life. Glancing at our text again, having brought this Samaritan outcast to a point of conviction in verse 19, Jesus listens to her flimsy religious argument in her attempt to divert attention

from her real spiritual need (verse 20-25). What was her real spiritual need, then? Her real need was that she needed to receive Jesus Christ and His free gift of "living water" (v. 10). After acknowledging her belief in the coming Messiah in verse 25, Jesus Christ makes an emphatic claim in verse 26, in saying - "I that speak unto thee am He." Having made the definitive statement, Jesus conversation with this once immoral and vile Samaritan woman, comes to an abrupt conclusion (v. 27). But, did His meeting with her produce any result? Yes, His meeting with her changed her life for the better. This once despised Samaritan became a vibrant missionary (v. 28-30), for she indeed had a life-changing meeting with the Master. And like this Samaritan woman, we too have a story to tell!

May God truly bless!

by **Rev. Johnny C. Smith**
Editorial Columnist



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Congresswoman Johnson's Statement on the Passing of Congressman John Lewis

"I will remember my friend, Congressman John Lewis, for his kindness, forceful stance against injustice, and his unwavering hope for equality. His belief in and fight for democracy had a definite impact on me and my opportunity to serve as a Member of the United States Congress. We often sat together on the House floor and he has visited Dallas on several occasions to lend both his voice and support when I asked. We've shared triumphs and trials together. One of those trying times was when we were arrested together in 2006 for peacefully protesting outside the Embassy of Sudan. After being arrested we were held in separate cells and I began to worry over the seriousness of the situation and that I could not see him. I soon heard his voice directing us to sing civil rights songs - we sang loud, strong, and long. We kept up so much noise that we were allowed to bail-out in four hours. My heart is extended to his staff and family at this time. Thank you, my friend, for a lifetime full of "good trouble."

CNN: Six Years Ago Cornyn Criticized Obama's Handling of Ebola Crisis, Now He is Praising the Current Administration's Pandemic Response

Last night, CNN dug up comments from 2014, in which Senator John Cornyn criticized the Obama administration's response to Ebola, and yet fast forward to 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed over 5,000 Texans, and Cornyn has no critiques for the current Administration. Instead Cornyn has praised President Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, saying the president has "led well" and "given it his all" to combat the virus. To put it into perspective, in 2014, only four people were diagnosed with Ebola in the US, only two cases were contracted on US soil, and only one of the four died. Currently, the coronavirus pandemic has infected over 4 million Americans, and killed more than 150,000. "What Senator Cornyn's comments show us is what we have known all along: He will always put politics ahead of his own constituents. Texas just passed 5,000 deaths from COVID-19, and instead of holding the Administration accountable and doing everything he can to end the pandemic, he is downplaying the disease and undermining the scientific and medical experts trying to save American lives. Texans will remember this in November when they get to elect a real leader, like MJ, who will always put Texans first," said Jake Lewis, MJ for Texas spokesperson.

Robert L. Johnson, founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET) and The RLJ Companies, calls upon Black elected officials and Black national organizations to refute the Axios article entitled 10 Myths About The Racial Wealth Gap or propose their own viable solutions to close what Axios calls a "wealth chasm"

BETHESDA, Md., July 28, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- An article in Axios written by Dion Rabouin entitled 10 Myths About The Racial Wealth Gap, (link below) asserted, "...the wealth gap is the product of centuries of inequality and racism that has grown too large to be impacted significantly by individual actions, achievements, or choices." The article further stated, "Here are some of the most popular myths about the racial wealth gap's causes and solutions - and why each falls apart with a closer look."

Mr. Johnson said, "Black elected officials, national Black organizations, and the Democratic Party, which receives approximately 90% of Black voter support, must refute the Axios article with compelling evidence; and, if unable to do so, must propose viable alternative solutions that will convince Black Americans that we can achieve economic justice

in the form of wealth parity when compared to white Americans. I believe that it is patently unfair to make the case to 40 million Black Americans that long-standing government programs will work to solve wealth inequality if factual data, presented in the Axios article, shows that these programs, whether operating individually or collectively, will not close the wealth gap. I further suggest we admit to Black Americans that if these government-sponsored programs do not work as promised; and, if there are no viable alternatives, it is time to demand, on behalf of Black Americans, long-overdue, full and total reparations."

Mr. Johnson further stated, "I urge every American who is concerned about the Black/white wealth gap to read the Axios article <https://apple.news/ADs408tqTj-Y4dDkFR-Bfg> to form your own opinion about next steps to address this divisive economic situation."

Attached are my comments made in an interview with Axios. <https://www.axios.com/bo-b-johnson-racial-wealth-inequality-bet-97746e61-852a-4f0a-9d92-777812bd0020.html>

About The RLJ Companies: The RLJ Companies, LLC, founded by Robert L. Johnson, is an innovative business network that provides strategic investments in a diverse portfolio of companies. Within The RLJ Companies portfolio, Johnson owns or holds interests in businesses operating in a publicly traded hotel real estate investment trust (REIT); private equity; 401k fintech services; automobile dealerships; content streaming; and gaming and sports betting. The RLJ Companies is headquartered in Bethesda, MD. Prior to founding The RLJ Companies, Johnson founded Black Entertainment Television (BET).

SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, July 30	Friday, July 31	Saturday, August 1	Sunday, August 2	Monday, August 3	Tuesday, August 4	Wednesday, August 5
H - 98° L - 78°	H - 91° L - 71°	H - 91° L - 71°	H - 91° L - 71°	H - 89° L - 69°	H - 89° L - 71°	H - 93° L - 73°

Carl Seldon, PGA Life Member Passes Away



SELDON, Carl C. was very active in the H. M. Turner High Alumni Assoc., Inc. serving as co-Team Captain of his Class (1958) and as a Life Member.

He passed away on July 1, 2020. Carl, a dedicated Turner and CAU alumni, was a stellar athlete at these institutions. As captain of the Golf Team and Point Guard on both basketball teams he led them to many championships and other recognitions, while developing into a strong community service advocate for the Dixie Hills Community. Carl performed well in other areas but is most often featured within his golfing career.

Carl was a member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), Extra

Point Club (EPC), and the Clark Atlanta Athletic Boosters Association (CAABA) Halls of Fame.

Upon graduation from high school, Carl enrolled at Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) and immediately continued in sports by playing basketball and was selected Co-Captain of the basketball team during his senior year. He also served as captain of the golf team for four years. Some of his sports honors at Clark were: Won the SIAC four straight years - Individual Medalist in Golf. · Won the Florida Relays · Won the Tuskegee Relays

After receiving his Bachelors of Arts Degree in Economics in 1963 from Clark College, Carl enlisted in the United States Army. During his two-year tenure in the Army, he was a member of the 3rd Army Basketball Team and 3rd Army Golf Team. Carl completed his tour of duty in the Army with an honorable discharge in 1965.

Upon returning to Atlanta, he immediately began his Professional Golf Career by playing on golf tours with other Afro-American golfers. In 1974, Carl joined the Professional Golfers Association (PGA), where he later became a life member. In 1979, Carl was employed by the City of Atlanta as a Lead Golf Professional. Some of his affiliations were: · First Afro-American to Hold a PGA Card in the State of Georgia · Member of the PGA of America (Life Member) · Member of the Black Golfers Hall of Fame · Member of the Clark College Athletic Hall of Fame · Member of the 100% Wrong Club Hall of Fame · Awarded Outstanding Citizen by Lewis Massey, Georgia Secretary of State · Member of the Henry McNeal Turner Alumni Association, Inc. (Life Member) · Member of the Atlanta Old Timers, Incorporated Carl took pride in his family and loved them all immensely and he was also dearly loved by his entire family.

Biden Surrogates Tout ‘Plan for America’



By **Stacy M. Brown**, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

President Donald Trump’s failure to control the coronavirus pandemic has worsened a long list of challenges facing American families, according to presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden.

Among those challenges are caregivers, parents struggling to find childcare, and those in nursing homes, Biden and his campaign team said as they rolled out the former vice president’s “Plan for Mobilizing American Talent and Heart to Create a 21st Century Caregiving and Education Workforce.”

Staging frequent media briefings where surrogates tout Biden’s message remains a regular occurrence of the campaign. On Tuesday, July 21, former Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-Fla.), Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, championed Biden’s plan.

In a media briefing, the four African American women leaders said Biden’s plan prioritizes caregivers, and it would lend needed assistance to families of color, particularly Black women.

“I’m a grandmother of three beautiful young girls, and what I do every day is hope they have caregivers who know that I respect the work they are doing very much,” Lyles said.

“That means we need to pay people. We need to provide them with bene-

fits. We need to make sure the people who are taking care of our children don’t have to worry about how they are going to get home on a bus, and that they are certain that they have an adequate wage to live in our cities.”

Each agreed that even before the pandemic, the U.S. experienced a caregiving crisis.

They echoed Biden’s campaign message that some care needs were going untended.

Other care needs were filled by Americans serving as unpaid caregivers lacking the financial support or respite care they needed, and sometimes putting their careers on hold.

Often, families made caregiving decisions that came with significant financial, professional, physical, and emotional costs, the surrogates each agreed.

Caregivers and early childhood educators – disproportionately women of color – have been underpaid, unseen, and undervalued for far too long, they stated.

“I don’t know if President Trump has even met a caregiver, or that he would even understand the role of caregivers, and their importance in our society and our economy,” said Rawlings-Blake.

“When I take a look at [Biden’s] plan, it is very comprehensive, and it is focused on standing in the gap for a healthcare system that the president is trying to dismantle.”

Biden’s plan includes:

- Expanding access to a broad array of long-term services and supports in local settings, including closing the gaps in

Medicaid for home- and community-based services and establishing a state innovation fund for creative, cost-effective direct care services.

- It ensures access to high-quality, affordable childcare, and offers universal preschool to three- and four-year olds through more significant investment, expanded tax credits, and sliding-scale subsidies.
- Building safe, energy-efficient, developmentally appropriate childcare facilities, including in workplaces, so that parents and guardians never again have to search in vain for a suitable childcare option.
- Treating caregivers and early childhood educators with respect and dignity, and giving them the pay and benefits they deserve, training and career ladders to higher-paying jobs, joining a union and bargain collectively, and other fundamental work-related rights and protections.

The campaign estimates that the plan would cost \$775 billion over ten years and would be paid for by rolling back unproductive and unequal tax breaks for real estate investors with incomes over \$400,000 and taking steps to increase tax compliance for high-income earners.

“The plan in every way is set out to really support those who are making it possible for our society to work,” Rawlings-Blake stated. “I’m particularly interested in the support that is given to in-home caregivers, because I know how precarious their jobs are, particularly in this COVID-19 crisis.”

I can’t stay home but I can stay safe

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home. But not everyone can do that. Some of us have to go to work to provide for our families. Take these steps so that you don’t bring COVID-19 home. Do it for your family so they stay healthy too.

How to stay safe when running essential errands:

- Stay home if sick.
- Use online or home-delivery services when available.
- Wear a cloth face covering when running errands.
- Practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others).
- Use hand sanitizer after

leaving stores or banks.

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home.
- Make a shopping list to shop efficiently.

Picking up medications during COVID-19

While social distancing is key to preventing the spread of COVID-19, it’s also important to continue receiving medications for chronic conditions to make sure those conditions are well maintained.

Follow these tips when picking up the prescriptions and over-the-counter medication you need to stay safe and feel better.

- Limit in-person visits to the pharmacy. Use drive-thru windows, curbside services (wait in your car until the prescription is ready), mail order, or other delivery services. Do the same for pet medicine.
- Plan to order and pick up all your prescriptions at the same time.
- If possible, call prescription orders in ahead of time.
- Check with your doctor and pharmacist to see if you can get a larger supply of your medicines so you do not have to visit the pharmacy as often.

For more info, visit parklandhospital.com/covidisreal.



Body of civil rights icon John Lewis crosses Selma Bridge

Continued from Page 1

The wagon rolled over a carpet of rose petals, pausing atop the bridge over the Alabama River in the summer heat so family members could walk behind it. On the south side of the bridge, where Lewis was beaten by Alabama state troopers in 1965, family members placed red roses that the carriage rolled over, marking the spot where Lewis spilled his blood and suffered a head injury.

As a military honor guard lifted Lewis' casket from the horse-drawn wagon into an automobile hearse,

Lewis' body was then taken to the Alabama Capitol in the afternoon to lie in repose, retracing the route marchers took in the days after Bloody Sunday to demand justice from Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

Bertha Surles and Edna Goldsmith stood along the highway between Selma and Montgomery to pay their final respects. Both carried signs, reading "Thank you."

"He fought for equal rights up unto his death," said Surles, 70.

She was in high school on Bloody Sunday and remembered watching the news footage of Lewis being beaten with horror.

"They didn't give up and something good came from it. Still need some improvement, but something good came from it."

Lewis left his family's farm in Pike County, Alabama, in the 1950s to begin the fight against segregation and racial oppression. He received a hero's welcome on his final stop in his home state.

After tracing the route of the completed Selma to Montgomery march, an honor guard carried Lewis' flag-draped casket into the Alabama Capitol, which had served as the first capitol of the Confederacy.

Peggy Wallace Kennedy, the daughter of former segregationist governor Wallace, was among those in the Capitol for the receiving ceremony, along with most of Alabama's congressional delegation.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey placed a wreath of flowers shaped like the Alabama flag by the casket. U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell placed a wreath shaped like the American flag. His family members, many wearing shirts with the phrase "Good Trouble," were led first into the Capitol before the public viewing later in the afternoon. A line of people, some carrying umbrellas for shade, waited under the brutal midday Alabama sun to go inside and pay their respects.

After the viewing, his casket was carried out as the song "Amazing Grace" was sung.

Bernice King, the daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., spoke at a vigil for Lewis across the street from the Capitol, just a block away from the church her father led during the civil rights movement. Standing in front of large letters, spelling out the word "VOTE," she recalled the man her father called "the boy from Troy" and her family called Uncle John.

"The most astounding thing about Congressman Lewis being left for dead on that bridge (in 1965) is how he got up both physically and spiritually. When he recovered, he recovered without a trace of bitterness or hostility or without losing hope in our Democracy," Bernice King said.

She called for today's young activists to take inspiration from Lewis' non-violent leadership and for Congress to honor Lewis' life legacy by restoring and expanding the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"This would be a fitting tribute and a way to honor this non-violent warrior who said the vote is the most powerful tool that we have," she said.

A series of events began Saturday in Lewis' hometown of Troy, Alabama, to pay tribute the late congressman and his legacy. He will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol next week before his private funeral Thursday at Atlanta's historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, which the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once led.

Texas AG says schools trump health officials on class start

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Local health officials in Texas do not have the authority to close schools to prevent spread of the coronavirus, state Attorney General Ken Paxton said Tuesday, pushing that decision solely into the hands of school officials.

Paxton issued a "legal guidance" letter on schools amid fierce debate among local governments, health officials, parents and teachers on when schools should open in a state that has become one of the nation's hot spots in the pandemic.

Texas has seen new confirmed virus cases, hospitalizations and deaths surge during July. On Tuesday, Texas reported 164 new deaths, bringing the state total to nearly 5,900, with nearly 10,000 COVID-19 patients in the hospital.

Dozens of cities, counties and school districts — including in the most populous areas — have already decided to delay school reopening's for the upcoming academic year.

In Dallas, health officials have prohibited in-person classes until at least Sept. 8 and similar orders are in place in Houston. Paxton's letter sent them scrambling to check its impact on their



(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

decisions and set up the potential for legal challenges.

"Our actions to save lives from this crisis should be guided by public health, science, and compassion for the health and safety of our residents — not politics," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

Paxton, a Republican, said local health officials' authority is limited to addressing "specific, actual outbreaks of disease." He previously said local health orders closing schools didn't apply to private religious schools.

"While playing an important role in protecting the health of school children and employees, local health authorities

may not issue sweeping orders closing schools for the sole purpose of preventing future COVID-19 infections," Paxton said. The Texas Education Agency, which oversees public schools, meanwhile piled more pressure on, telling schools they risk losing state funding if they close campuses to comply with any order from local health authorities.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who toured parts of South Texas hit by Hurricane Hanna, didn't address Paxton's guidance directly when speaking with reporters in Corpus Christi. But he said school opening decisions are best left to local education officials with input from health authori-

ties. "We have a duty to ensure we do not lose a generation of students because of this pandemic," Abbott said. "We have an obligation to step up and make sure they are educated about reading, arithmetic, and things like that, but also they are educated in how to respond to challenges that may come their way in life. Pediatricians all recommend the best learning environment for a child is going to be in the classroom."

The Texas State Teachers Association sharply criticized Paxton. "We trust health experts, not the attorney general, when children's lives are at stake," the group said in a statement.

Mayor Eric Johnson to host Mayor's Back to School Fair Aug. 20-21

DALLAS -- Mayor Eric Johnson on Tuesday announced that the 24th annual Dallas Mayor's Back to School Fair will take place Aug. 20-21.

The fair has traditionally served as a time-saving, one-stop shop that offers school supplies and a wealth of information and community resources. This year, the fair will look different and will not provide the same resource offerings because of the need to practice social distancing and limit potential exposure to COVID-19.

But families will still be able to receive necessary supplies and resources they need ahead of the upcoming school year. The fair will be set up as a two-day event. For those without a car, walk-ups will be allowed Aug. 20. The next day, the fair will be a drive-through event, during which parents of Dallas students who meet certain income requirements will be able to have school supply packs placed in their vehicles.

"The Mayor's Back to School Fair is a critical annual event for thousands of families in Dallas," Mayor Johnson said. "No matter what school looks like this year, our children deserve to be set up for academic success. While this year's fair



Photo Credit/DISD The Hub

will be different, it will be even more important to our families. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased need in our city, and the fair is another way for us to help those who can't afford the added expense of school supplies right now."

The walk-up event is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 20, from 5-7 p.m. The drive-through event is scheduled from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Aug. 21 at Fair Park.

Families must pre-register online by Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, to receive school supplies. After pre-registering online, families will receive a confirmation code to display to volunteers at the event to receive school supplies. Parents who are not able to attend can give their confirmation code to another individual to pick up the school supplies for

their kids.

More information and pre-registration are available online at mayors-backtoschoolfair.com.

Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa said he welcomes the event as a message to students that it's time to get ready to learn - whether that happens in person or virtually. "With so much about this school year up in the air, the back to school fair encourages students to start thinking about learning," said Hinojosa. "It signals that learning is still important and possible even during a pandemic."

The fair began 24 years ago with about 1,000 people and a dozen or so organizations. Now, thanks to the continued support of mayors, local community partners, sponsors, and nonprofits,

the event has grown and attracts about 35,000 people and more than 130 organizations annually.

The fair is a collaborative effort between the City of Dallas, Dallas ISD, nonprofits, corporations, and community volunteers.

To qualify for free school supplies, students must live in the City of Dallas or attend a Dallas ISD school. For Dallas ISD students, families must provide proof that the student attends a Dallas ISD school by providing a student ID number. For students who live in the City of Dallas but attend schools outside Dallas ISD, families must provide a valid photo ID, proof of residency, and income verification. All families must meet 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines to receive assistance.