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DATE DISTRIBUTED 4/9/13 DATE OF ARTICLE 3/29/13 NEWSPAPER FWST

Paralyzed man pulled from van fire at DFW Airport

Posted Friday, Mar. 29, 2013 Updated 3 Comments Print Reprints

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On Friday night, T.J. Griffin said repeatedly how happy he is to be alive.

But not because he rebuilt his life after being paralyzed while playing football for Trinity High School in 1990.

Griffin, of Euless, said he's lucky to have survived the flames that engulfed his van about 6:20 a.m. in front of Terminal A at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

Griffin, who had just arrived on an overnight flight from Seattle, might have died had it not been for an airport valet and a woman on her way to a Caribbean cruise.

The valet, Walter C. Vaughn III of Watauga, heard Griffin's calls for help and rushed to his aid.

He was soon joined by Kristina Gish of Euless, who had just arrived by taxi to catch a flight to Miami, said David Magaña, an airport spokesman.

Griffin was contacted at his favorite restaurant late Friday, where he was celebrating with family and friends. He not only lost his van but also an expensive motorized wheelchair, his luggage and his cellphone, he said.

But he didn't care.

"I am blessed," he exclaimed. "I have the greatest family and the best of friends, but, and most importantly, I now have these savior saints in that valet and the lady who helped him. Without them, my family would be having the worst Easter ever, but now it's the best Easter ever."

Griffin said he was in Seattle for a training program conducted by his employer, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. He described himself as a "paramentor" for the organization: He meets with people who have lost mobility through accidents or medical conditions.

"I've been through ups and downs, and I want to make sure people realize their lives are not over," he said.

After his red-eye flight arrived at DFW, Griffin got his van from a parking lot and had returned to baggage claim at the terminal to retrieve his luggage, which was waiting for him at the curb.

He smelled something funny but thought it may have been related to construction at the airport. Then smoke welled up inside the van.

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Vaughn, while rushing toward the calls for help, saw fire.

"You could start to see flames kind of lick up a little bit," Vaughn said. Soon they reached over Griffin's head.

Griffin and Vaughn tried to unlock the wheelchair to move it out of the van, but Vaughn couldn't find the release button, so he undid Griffin's seat belt and put him in a bearhug.

Then he pulled him out onto the pavement. Gish ran forward and helped Vaughn drag Griffin farther from the van. The heat burst the van's windows.

Firefighters from DFW's Department of Public Safety arrived to douse the fire. Once Griffin was safe, Gish caught her flight. She could not be reached for an interview.

Vaughn, the father of seven, doesn't think he was a hero. He finished his shift at DFW and went home to rest before reporting to his second job at BNSF Railway.

"If anything, I have a new respect for firemen," he said. "After dealing with how fast that fire moved, and the smoke."

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U.S. Concrete Expands Credit Facility

By GlobeNewswire, April 01, 2013, 08:09:00 AM EDT

EULESS, Texas, April 1, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- On March 28, 2013, U.S. Concrete, Inc. (Nasdaq:USCR) (the "Company" or "U.S. Concrete") amended its asset based credit agreement to increase the total commitments under the facility from \$80 million to \$102.5 million. The expiration date of the credit facility remains July 1, 2015 and the facility retains an uncommitted accordion feature that may allow for an increase in the total commitments under the facility to as much as \$125 million. Availability under the facility is subject to certain conditions including the calculation of a borrowing base. U.S. Concrete President and Chief Executive Officer, William J. Sandbrook, said, "This increase in commitments provides the Company with additional liquidity to fund future acquisitions and other value-creating investments as we execute on our strategic plan."

For more information on this transaction, please see the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 1, 2013, visit <http://www.us-concrete.com/sec.asp> or contact U.S. Concrete at 817-835-4111 or lrussell@us-concrete.com.

About U.S. Concrete, Inc.

U.S. Concrete services the construction industry in several major markets in the United States through its two business segments: ready-mixed concrete and aggregate products. As of the date of this press release, the Company has 101 fixed and 11 portable ready-mixed concrete plants and seven producing aggregates facilities. During 2012, these plant facilities produced approximately 4.8 million cubic yards of ready-mixed concrete and 3.3 million tons of aggregates. For more information on U.S. Concrete, visit www.us-concrete.com.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains various forward-looking statements and information that are based on management's beliefs, as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to management. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this press release. U.S. Concrete disclaims any obligation to update these statements and cautions you not to rely unduly on them. Although U.S. Concrete believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that those expectations will prove to have been correct. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially, including the possibility that the anticipated benefits from such activities, events, developments or transactions cannot be fully realized or the possibility that costs or difficulties related thereto will be greater than expected.

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Should one or more of these risks materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those expected. Additional risks affecting U.S. Concrete are discussed in greater detail in U.S. Concrete's filings with the [Securities and Exchange Commission](#), including U.S. Concrete's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

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Source: U.S. Concrete

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Feds file suit against Euless apartment complex, alleging manager discriminated against 'curry people'



By Eric Sheffield

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11:20 am on April 8, 2013 | [Permalink](#)



The Department of Justice has filed suit against the owner and manager of a Euless apartment complex accused of violating the Fair Housing Act by denying housing opportunities to people of Middle Eastern or South Asian descent because she found their odor offensive.

[The Stonebridge at Bear Creek](#), located at 2250 Fuller-Wiser Road near the Bear Creek Golf Club, consists of 184 units across 21 buildings, is managed by Nancy Quandt. The lawsuit has also been filed against Stonebridge at Bear Creek, the Minnesota-based owner of the apartment complex, and S&H Realty Management, which manages Stonebridge.

According to the lawsuit filed at the end of last week in Dallas federal court, Quandt told her leasing agents they were prohibited from leasing to Middle Eastern or South Asian people unless there were openings in buildings No. 16 or 18, which were designated for "curry people" — which is what the government says Quandt called them.

"Quandt justified her discriminatory instructions and behavior by saying that persons of the Middle East and South Asia 'stink,' were 'dirty,' 'completely destroyed' apartments, left the walls smelling of curry after they moved out, and made neighboring tenants want to live elsewhere," the suit says.

S&H Realty Management insists there's no discrimination at the complex and says the lawsuit was unjustly filed.

"We stand behind our employees, we've done nothing wrong, and we welcome the opportunity to prove that," Nancy Hart, vice president of S & H Realty, said Monday.

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From 2009 to 2010, says the suit, the average concentration of Middle Eastern or South Asian people was 83 percent in Building No. 18 and 38 percent in Building No. 16 — and just 3.6 percent in the other 19 buildings combined.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 makes it unlawful to refuse sale or rent of a dwelling because of a person's race, religion, age, sex or national origin.

According to the suit, Quandt told her employees to determine would-be renters' ethnicities by screening the accents of people calling for possible living opportunities. The Justice Department also says she would punish Middle Eastern and South Asian tenants by enforcing the complex's cleanliness rules more strictly against them.

This activity had been going on since at least 2004, says the suit, but many of Stonebridge's employees were fearful they would lose their jobs if they filed a complaint against Quandt.

The manager had told them that two previous leasing agents had been fired almost immediately by Hart for reporting information about discrimination at the complex, according to the lawsuit. Hart denies the allegations.

In 2009 alone, says the suit, the complex fluctuated between a vacancy rate of 11 and 18 percent. But Quandt allegedly continued to turn away potential leasers because of their race.