StarTribune
BUSINESS
MONEY • WORK • KNOW-HOW
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 • SECTION D

KEEP CALM AND STICK TO A CARRY-ON

Packing light can help leisure travelers avoid airline fees and hassles such as lost baggage. As travelers book spring-break and summer flights, here are some tips on how to pack using a carry-on, such as wearing your heaviest clothes to the airport and the best rolling method. **D4**

Star Tribune illustration

Knowing how to spot an obvious scam won't always protect you

By MICHELLE SINGLETARY
Washington Post

I've been binge-watching CNBC's "American Greed," and I'm not proud that I sometimes wonder about the victims: How could you fall for that? Why didn't you see the obvious signs it was a scam?

The documentary series masterfully chronicles the exploits of the most audacious swindlers.

Part of an episode that started airing last week, "Preaching Pyramid Schemes," focuses on Marlon and LaShonda Moore, a Texas couple once featured on the OWN cable network reality show "Family or Fiancé."

They promised investors returns of 800% in as little as a week, according to a joint complaint filed in 2021 by the Federal Trade Commission and the state of Arkansas. For a stake of $1,400 or $1,425, participants were told they would get $11,200 or $11,400, respectively, in their "blessing loom."

The episode coincides with a development in a $250 million Ponzi scheme I've been following: Eddy Alexandre, the founder of EminiFX, pleaded guilty recently to one count of commodities fraud.

Alexandre claimed he had developed a proprietary trading system to invest in cryptocurrency and the foreign exchange markets, or Forex. Each week EminiFX's website falsely represented returns of at least 5%, which investors could withdraw or reinvest, the Justice Department said.

But Alexandre failed to invest "a substantial portion" of investors' money and even used some funds for personal purchases, U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said in a statement after the guilty plea.

Alexandre transferred about $14.7 million to his personal bank account, the

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