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# Dallas council grinds through difficult ATTPAC bailout

By David Wilfong  
NDG Special Contributor

A proposed bailout of the AT&T Performing Arts Center (ATTPAC) by the City of Dallas has raised concerns over the money spent by the community at large, and the fairness in the application of city resources among smaller and minority-focused arts groups in Dallas.

Jennifer Scripps, director of the Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), outlined the contract amendment for members of the Arts, Culture and Libraries (ACL) committee on Sept. 19. She believes the focus on ATTPAC is a positive move for all arts organizations as well.

“It’s been very complex getting all of the smaller arts organizations to review it and think about their own business and how this can actually help them and be seen as a true asset for the entire arts community in Dallas,” Scripps said.

As for why the focus on ATTPAC is important, Scripps noted the City of Dallas owns the Winspear Opera House and the Wyly Theater. During construction, the city put up \$17 million for construction and \$9 million for land. ATTPAC took on a debt of \$151 million in the process. The city already contributes \$2.5 million per year in operating costs.

“They (ATTPAC) have secured,



The Winspear Opera House is one of the city-owned facilities to be affected by a bailout of the AT&T Performing Arts Center. The deal could eventually reach \$15 million over a 10 year period. (Photo: Marco Becerra / Flickr)

independent from the city, a tremendous package to help bring this debt down,” Scripps said. “The banks are participating to the tune of \$45 million. Private donors have already paid \$56 million with \$8 million in donor pledges still to be paid. And importantly, ATTPAC has committed to raising another \$27 million over the terms of this agreement. That leaves the city portion of \$15 million, and for that we are contracting for increased artist support services, which is important.”

Benefits Scripps sees coming to the city include ticketing and marketing support for smaller arts or-

ganizations, as the ATTPAC can operate on a larger scale which includes an e-mail marketing list 155,000 strong. The ATTPAC also has a marketing team and can coordinate effective use of venues in the community, including use by smaller organizations.

One question consistently raised is whether the deal is “set in stone” for the full 10 years. Scripps said all programs are revisited on either a quarterly or annual basis, and the agreement could be adjusted if further sources of revenue, such as an in-

See ATTPAC, Page 5



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-See Page 10



Dallas ISD dedicates new school

-See Page 5



TWC ramps up efforts to help disabled workers

-See Page 13



Hollywood’s historic treasure

-See Page 9

COMMENTARY

## Clinton and Trump must address poor, homeless in next debate

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

There is no question that Hillary Clinton “won” the first presidential debate of this election cycle. She was knowledgeable, composed, unflappable, and occasionally even funny. Her opponent, who had the temerity to criticize her “stamina,” seemed to lack stamina of his own. By the time the 90-minute debate was over, the rude, sniffling, frequent water-sipping Mr. Trump

looked like a candidate for enforced bed rest.

Mr. Trump was the loser, but he was not the biggest loser. The biggest losers were the unmentionables, the people who received scant attention, in the debate. There were 43.1 million poor people in the United States in 2015, more than 13 percent of the population. Yet, they were barely mentioned. To be sure, moderator Lester Holt

See DEBATE, Page 3

## INSIDE...

- People In The News ..... 2
- Op/Ed ..... 3
- Health ..... 4
- Community ..... 5
- Education ..... 6
- Plano / Irving ..... 7
- Community Briefs ..... 8
- Entertainment ..... 9-10
- Market Place ..... 11-13
- Church Directory ..... 14-15
- NDG Book Review ..... 16

## People In The News...

See Page 2



Chief David O. Brown



Pastor Sam Fenceroy



Marco G. Ronquillo

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## Chief David O. Brown

Dallas Chief of Police David O. Brown, who in July helped lead the city through the anguished days following the ambush shooting deaths of five police officers will receive the 2017 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award from SMU's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility at a March 21 luncheon.

"Chief David Brown has demonstrated by his words and his actions all of the leadership qualities we had in mind when the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award was created," said Bobby Lyle,



SMU Trustee and Maguire Ethics Center board member. "He has led our community with courage and integrity during our brightest days and our darkest hours. He has set standards for public and

community service that we would all do well to emulate. I can think of no one more deserving of this prestigious award that bears the name of one of Dallas' most admired leaders."

Brown, a Dallas native who was born and raised in South Oak Cliff, is a 33-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department and the department's longest-serving chief in modern times. He was sworn in as Dallas' 28th police chief in May 2010, commanding a department with more than 4,000 employees and an annual operating budget of \$426 million dollars. Brown has announced he will retire Oct. 4.

Building and maintaining strong, transparent relationships with the community has been Brown's focus since he took the top position. During his tenure, Brown transitioned the department to a community-policing focused organization and implemented policies and training to ensure citizen and officer safety. He also expanded several community outreach programs and youth centered programs.

Brown implemented policies and training to ensure citizen and officer safety during interactions, and emphasized the importance of de-escalation training for his of-

ficers. Under Brown's leadership, the Dallas Police Department reduced the use of deadly force by more than 40 percent and reduced excessive force complaints by more than 80 percent.

"This award recognizes those who face hard decisions and whose metal is tested," said Rita Kirk, Director of SMU's Maguire Ethics Center. "Chief Brown personifies the struggle of leaders trying to do the right thing during periods of intense pressure. Our community is stronger because of his leadership, particularly in the wake of recent events. His actions during those days not only reflected the charac-

ter of our community to other cities around the world who watched, but also left us united, stronger, and more hopeful that we will overcome any obstacle to make this a better city for all our citizens."

Brown joined the department as a police officer in 1983. Before taking over as chief, he was named first assistant police chief under Chief David Kunkle in 2005, and then named as interim Dallas assistant city manager in 2007. In that position he directed operations in the areas of Code Compliance, Environmental & Health

See BROWN, Page 4

## Pastor Sam Fenceroy

Concerned about violence and racial tensions all over the United States, with policemen killing unarmed Black men, most without a justifiable reason, mass demonstrations in protest about the killings, destructions of businesses and property without a rationale; Pastor Sam is deeply alarmed about racial divide in our country.

Asking himself what could he do to help alleviate the problem that is dividing our country? The church's motto is, "Uniting the Body of Christ among Nations" found in Galatians 3:28.



"There is neither Jew nor Greek, Black nor White, nor Brown, nor any other color; There is neither Baptist nor Methodist, nor Pentecost, nor any other denomination; There is neither male nor female, for we are all one in

Christ Jesus."

Some of MOCOP's Statement of Faith are (condensed). "We believe in God eternally existence as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Trinity).

"We believe in the deity of the LORD Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection in His ascension and personal return in power and glory.

"We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit, and that His ministry is to reveal Christ to man, to convict of sin, to regenerate repentant sinners and to sanctify the lives of the redeemed.

"We believe that the Bible is God-inspired, is infallible and is the final authority for all conduct, faith and doctrine ..."

After much thought and consideration, the idea of a T-shirt that people could wear and start a dialog talking and thinking about racial tension in the United States and changing some minds to realize that we are all of God's children and His desire is for all people to get along.

The main idea is for each group to "police" every individual in the group. When you witness someone in the group doing something wrong or illegal, say or do something about it to the in-

dividual, and if the behavior is not corrected, report the individual's behavior to someone with authority. If it is wrong, it is just wrong and it doesn't matter if it's a brother, sister, best friend, cousin, neighbor said Pastor Sam.

Pastor's Sam message is, "NOT All Whites are Racist, All Police are evil, All Blacks are Criminals, All Muslims are Terrorist, and All Hispanics are Illegal." He said the key words are, NOT All.

He continued to say, "All Men are Created Equal." The understanding is that there is no natural class of rulers among people, and that all are born with the same un-

alienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"Prejudice is a negative or hostile attitude, opinion or feeling toward a person or a group, formed without adequate knowledge, thought or reason and based on negative stereotypes. Prejudice is the result of prejudgment" and often leads to discrimination.

No one is born prejudiced! Prejudiced is learned and can be unlearned. Prejudices are attitudes rooted in ignorance's and a fear of differences.

For details and more information go to [tmstshirts.com](http://tmstshirts.com), [mocop.org](http://mocop.org), [adl.org](http://adl.org) or call 972-633-5511.

## Marco G. Ronquillo

The Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (DHBA) will hold its Annual Event: Noche de Luz on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Perot Museum in Dallas. The event will be dedicated to honoring and celebrating diversity in the legal profession.

The Annual Event: Noche de Luz is a signature event for the DHBA. It brings attorneys, judges, and students together for a celebration that highlights the organization's collective efforts to support educational and diversity initiatives within the legal community.

In addition to raising funds to promote its mission and diversity pipeline initiatives, each year the DHBA pres-



ents various prestigious awards to individuals that have contributed to the Hispanic legal community.

Marcos G. Ronquillo, Partner at Fishman Jackson Ronquillo, PLLC will be honored with the DHBA's highest honor, the La Luz Award. Mr. Ronquillo is being recognized for his

trailblazing contributions in the legal community, including his enduring support of the DHBA. Mr. Ronquillo demonstrates inspirational leadership, courage, integrity, and a commitment to lending a helping hand to others in the legal community.

The DHBA is also honoring Cynthia Sutherland, Legal Director of Business + Information Solutions at PepsiCo, with the DHBA's Corporate Counsel Award. Sutherland will be recognized for her substantial commitment to fostering greater diversity in the legal community and her promotion of progressive initiatives, including the first Latina Leadership Program.

For more information

about the Annual Event: Noche de Luz, visit [http://dallashispanicbar.com/th\\_event/dhba-11th-annual-event](http://dallashispanicbar.com/th_event/dhba-11th-annual-event).

The Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, formerly known as the Mexican American Bar Association of Dallas, provides a forum through which Hispanic attorneys in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex can come together to exchange ideas and to pursue common goals. The purpose of the Association is to promote the social, economic, educational, and civic advancement of the DFW Metroplex Hispanic community by making the legal system more accessible to the Hispanic community and more responsive to its needs.

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**Black Americans must demand equality in the auto industry**

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
 President /CEO of the NNPA

There are nearly 47 million Black Americans living in the United States that have diverse interests politically, economically, socially, and culturally. But no demand or interest is more important than equal justice and opportunity. Let me be crystal clear: There will be no peace without justice and there will be no justice without equal-

ity. This point of view and reality check was put forth with therapeutic intellectual clarity at the 17th annual Rainbow PUSH Global Automotive Summit last week in Detroit, Michigan. Under the experienced leadership of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., the global gathering of automotive industry executives, civil rights, business, media, and community leaders was an initiative of the

Citizenship Education Fund. The theme of the auto summit was “Refocusing Diversity on Ethic Minority Growth.” Throughout the conference inconsistencies were highlighted between the goal of inclusion, as envisioned, and the results measured, with the intent to resolve the disparities that prevent Black Americans from participating fully and equally in the auto industry. The National Newspaper

Publishers Association (NNPA) was very pleased to participate in the Global Automotive Summit. The summit was timely and strategically informative. We were all reminded about the importance of not permitting ourselves to get diverted off course in our centuries-long struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

As the racial and ethnic

See AUTO, Page 13

**Letter to the Editor: Remembering ‘Compassionate Conservatism’**

Hi Raynard, Thank you for your article. While I don’t agree with much of your article, I appreciate your voice in the discussion. I’m old enough to remember Jack Kemp and the compassionate conservative movement. Jack Kemp talked supply-side

policies directly to the African-American community in a way that resonated. He only talked about the best of the Black community and how it could get better. His words hit home to many African-America entrepreneurs and business owners. The Kemp-Roth Tax Cut is the

spark that started the economic rise that President Clinton is credited and made all boats rise economically in this country, including African-American incomes. Republican’s are generally aspirational in their approach to government and in his own way Trump

is no different. Like all other communities, African-Americans want to be perceived for their potential and successes while seeking solutions to continued community problems. This is something Kemp understood and Trump does not. -Michael Drayton

**DEBATE,** continued from Page 1

started the conversation between Clinton and Trump by asking a question about economic inequality. But neither Clinton nor Trump mentioned poverty or hunger, which remains a problem in the United States. Both talked about shoring up the middle class.

Clinton and Trump aren’t the only ones who avoid highlighting hunger and poverty when issues of economic inequality are discussed. When Vice-President Joe Biden was charged with focusing on the middle class in his “Middle Class Task Force,” early in the Obama Administration, there was a conspicuous silence about the status of the poor. While President Obama has lots of issues to deal with, the poor have not been a priority for him.

The Census Report that was released on September 13, “Income and Poverty in the United States: 2015,” documents improvements in our nation’s poverty status. Between 2014 and 2015, there were 3.5 million fewer people in poverty, and the poverty rate dropped quite significantly, from 14.8 per-

cent to 13.5 percent. The poverty rate for African Americans dropped from 26.4 to 24.1 percent, and child poverty dropped from 36 percent to 32.7 percent among African Americans.

Either presidential candidate could have talked about this economic good news with the caveat that while the drop in the poverty level is encouraging, there is still way too much poverty in our nation. One in five children under 18 live in poverty, along with one in three African American children. One in five African American households (and one in eight households overall) have incomes below \$15,000 a year. Further, there is significant “extreme poverty” in our country, people who earn less than half the poverty line. Half of all poor households are among the extreme poor. One in ten African American households qualifies as extremely poor, which means an income of less than \$12,000 for a family of four.

How can someone earn so little? All it takes is a low-wage job with unstable hours. A minimum wage worker who works full-time,

full-year earns a scant \$15,000 a year, but many low-wage jobs aren’t full-time, full-year. Many low-wage workers get “flexible” scheduling, which means that their hours of work are not guaranteed. Sometimes they are called to report for work, but if business is slow they can be sent home. There are few protections for these workers, which is why the Fight for Fifteen (\$15 an hour) has gained such momentum.

To his credit, President Obama signed an executive order that requires federal contractors to pay at least \$10 an hour to their workers. He has also signed an executive order requiring that federal contractors provide paid sick leave for their employees. Clearly, this administration is not indifferent to poor people. They just don’t talk much about them.

But the poor should not be our unmentionables. They are the living proof that our predatory capitalistic system is terribly flawed. Thus, even as the 2015 report on income and poverty celebrates economic progress (with incomes finally rising after years of stagnation), it also suggests that too many hard-

working people are living in a state of economic deprivation. More than 35 percent of African American households have incomes below \$25,000. Many of these families have incomes above the poverty line, but not by much.

There are two more debates, one of which will be conducted as a town hall. If moderators do not bring up the issue of poverty, perhaps someone in the audience of the town hall will. While I know that Hillary Clinton has more compassion for the poor, and has articulated solutions that will help end poverty (Mr. Trump, on the other hand, once said the minimum wage was “too high”), I think it important to hear matters of hunger and poverty addressed in the context of the presidential debates. Our flawed economy has pushed the poor to the margins, but candidates can shed light on their issues and garner mainstream attention for them.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available to order at [www.julianne-malveaux.com](http://www.julianne-malveaux.com). Follow her on Twitter @drjlastword.

# The involvement of men is critical to ending domestic abuse

PRNewswire — Domestic violence is not just a women's issue. That's the key message that resonated among more than 850 domestic violence organizations nationwide in Mary Kay's 2016 Truth About Abuse Survey, which reveals that nine out of 10 participating agencies have made concerted efforts to involve men in domestic violence prevention.

In partnership with Break the Cycle, the Mary Kay seventh annual Truth About Abuse Survey found that an overwhelming 92 percent of domestic violence organizations believe it's important to engage men in prevention and education efforts. Nearly half cited domestic violence as a community issue that is everyone's business.

"As a corporate leader in the fight against abuse, we

know domestic violence is a public health epidemic, and the only way to end abuse is to involve everyone in our communities," said Crayton Webb, Vice President of Corporate Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility for Mary Kay Inc. "The data from this year's Truth About Abuse Survey further supports our company's efforts to not only include men in a national dialogue about the issue but also to encourage them to become agents of change who take a stand against an issue that impacts one in four women."

Highlights from the survey include:

- 92% of domestic violence organizations want to involve men to engage other men about prevention

- 78% feel that men serving as role models and mentoring younger men can help

break the cycle of abuse

- 86% of domestic violence organizations have recruited men to volunteer and 78% have hired men on staff

- 62% of respondents want men to help support survivors

"Men play an important role in the ability to create social norms that do not tolerate violence against women," said Amy Sanchez, Chief Executive Officer for Break the Cycle. "Simply stated, we need men to take a stand with other men. The Mary Kay Truth About Abuse Survey underscores the vital importance of involving men in nationwide domestic violence prevention and education efforts."

In response to the overwhelming data revealed in the survey, Mary Kay Inc. will host an inaugural Men Don't Look Away Summit

on Nov. 2 in Dallas. Attendees, including men and domestic violence advocates from across the country, will receive a framework to engage men as advocates, volunteers and ambassadors on a grassroots level, activating this powerful group of change-makers within their local organizations.

The Men Don't Look Away Summit and Truth About Abuse Survey are part of the Mary Kay Don't Look Away campaign which works to educate the public on recognizing the signs of an abusive relationship, taking action and raising awareness for support services. To date, Mary Kay Inc. and The Mary Kay Foundation have given \$55 million to domestic violence prevention and awareness programs in an effort to end the cycle of abuse.



The seventh annual Mary Kay Truth About Abuse Survey found that an overwhelming 92 percent of domestic violence organizations believe it's important to engage men in prevention and education efforts to end abuse. (PRNewsFoto/Mary Kay Inc.)

# Healthy living now can lessen disabled years later

Leading a healthy lifestyle not only extends lifespan, but also shortens the time spent disabled—a finding that demonstrates the value of investing in healthy lifestyle promotion, even for elderly people.

The research shows that older adults with the healthiest lifestyles could expect to spend about 1.7 fewer years disabled at the end of their lives, compared to their unhealthiest counterparts.

"The duration of the disabled period near the end of one's life has enormous personal and societal implications, ranging from quality of life to health care costs," says senior author Anne B. Newman, professor of population health sciences and chair of the epidemiology department at the University



of Pittsburgh. "We discovered that, fortunately, by improving lifestyle we can postpone both death and disability. In fact, it turns out that we're compressing that disabled end-of-life period."

For a new study in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, researchers examined data from the Cardiovascular

Health Study, which followed 5,888 adults from Sacramento County, California; Forsyth County, North Carolina; Washington County, Maryland; and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, for 25 years. All of the participants were aged 65 or older and were not institutionalized or wheelchair-dependent when they enrolled.

The participants reported or were assessed for various lifestyle factors, including smoking habits, alcohol consumption, physical activity, diet, weight, and their social support system. Researchers took into account and adjusted results for such factors as participants' age, sex, race, education, income, marital status, and chronic health conditions.

Across all the participants, the average number of disabled years directly preceding death—years when the person had difficulty eating, bathing, using the toilet, dressing, getting out of bed or a chair, or walking around the home—averaged 4.5 years for women and 2.9 years for men.

For each gender and race group, those with the health-

iest lifestyle (those who were nonsmokers of a healthy weight and diet and getting regular exercise) not only lived longer, but also had fewer disabled years at the end of their lives.

For example, a white man in the healthiest lifestyle group could expect to live 4.8 years longer than his counterpart in the unhealthiest group, and at the end of his life, he'd likely spend only two of those years disabled, compared to 3.7 years for his unhealthy counterpart.

Put another way, that man's healthy lifestyle has given him nearly three more years of active life free of disability than his unhealthy counterpart, who not only died earlier but spent the last three-and-a-half years of his life disabled—a larger per-

centage of those remaining years.

"This clearly demonstrates the great value of investing in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and encouraging people to maintain healthy behaviors into old age," says lead author Mini E. Jacob, who completed the project during her doctoral studies at Pitt Public Health.

"We are not discounting the role of factors like income and chronic conditions, which we adjusted for in our analyses. However, our results do indicate that increasing obesity levels of older Americans can herald a disability epidemic, and by urging healthy lifestyles, we may still be able to reduce the public health burden due to disability as more adults reach old age."

## BROWN, continued from Page 2

Services, Equipment & Building Services, Library Services, Park & Recreation, and Cultural Affairs.

Brown holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master's (MBA) in Business Admin-

istration. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy, FBI National Executive Institute, Senior Management Institute for Police, the National Counter-

Terrorism Seminar in Tel Aviv, Israel and the United States Secret Service Dignitary Protection Seminar in Washington, D.C. Chief Brown also holds Master Peace Officer and Police Instructor certifications from the State of Texas.

Brown will be the 20th recipient of the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award. Tables and individual tickets are available for purchase at [smu.edu/ethics](http://smu.edu/ethics). All proceeds benefit SMU's Maguire Ethics Center, a nonprofit educational organization.

### At a Glance

**What:** Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown will be honored with the 2017 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award from SMU's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility during a

fundraising luncheon.

**When:** Noon – 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21

**Where:** The Pavilion at the Belo Mansion, 2201 Ross Avenue

**Host:** SMU's Maguire Center for Ethics & Public Responsibility.

# DISD celebrates Joe May in dedication of new school

Student performances and remarks by Dallas ISD and city officials, community leaders, and family members of the late Dallas ISD trustee José “Joe” May marked the Sept. 29 dedication of the school named in his honor. The celebration took place in the multipurpose room of the new Jose “Joe” May Elementary School located in northwest Dallas at 9818 Brockbank Dr.

Welcoming guests to the district’s newest school, Principal Israel Rivera expressed the excitement experienced by students and



Community, city and district leaders attended the dedication of Jose “Joe” May Elementary School. (Photo: Dallas ISD)

staff learning their way around the 100,000-square-ft. building that features 47 classrooms and serves students in grades pre-K through five. The new

building is the last of 14 new schools constructed with funds from the district’s \$1.35 billion 2008 Bond Program.

District 8 Dallas ISD

Trustee Miguel Solis, who represents the northwest Dallas community where the school is located, welcomed the family members of the late Jose “Joe” May for whom the school is named and joined Dallas city officials Monica Alonzo and Adam Medrano in extolling the important contributions of the late Joe May who they praised as a tireless advocate for voting and civil rights.

Elected officials from the U.S. Senate to the Texas Legislature and Dallas City Council presented proclamations and resolutions

praising May for his work promoting voting and civil rights. Superintendent Michael Hinojosa shared personal stories of working alongside Joe May. He said May was a fearless warrior who fought for the rights of the less fortunate with courage, fortitude and well-researched and convincing data.

In her remarks, Eliza May, sister of the school’s namesake, thanked the community for honoring her brother’s legacy and encouraged students to study hard and always remember with pride that they are Joe

May Mavericks.

Student contributions included a show-stopping rendition of “El Mochila Azul,” “The Blue Backpack,” by two kindergarteners and the first performance of a new school song titled “Joe May Leading the Way,” composed and led by music teacher Amanda Meyer.

The project team for the new school, built at a cost of \$20.8 million with the capacity to serve 824 students, included architect, CaCo Architecture, LLC, and general contractor, Ratcliff Constructors.

## ATTPAC, continued from Page 1

creased surcharge on tickets, could ease the financial burden.

“Each year it’s up for review to make sure that everything is as being promised to us in terms of the banks and everybody else,” said Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Erik Wilson. “So we’re making sure everyone is doing what they’re supposed to be doing. It’s not a blanket check or a blanket guarantee.”

At the same meeting, Dallas City Councilmember Scott Griggs gave a stern rebuke of the manner in which he saw the bailout being pursued. Griggs complained of not having all the details in front of him, and that those final details should be available before even making a preliminary decision.

“We’ve got the seventh floor and the fourth floor slow-playing the council with a powerful outside interest,” Griggs said. “So you’re going to lock up the money in the budget on Wednesday (Sept. 21), then the rest of this is just basically smoke and mirrors. It’s extremely disappointing.”

Councilmember Jennifer S. Gates said had been “taken aback” when confronted with the bailout request, but that she saw it as being in the best interest of the city.

“These are city-owned buildings, and I want the city in control of the keys, and not the banks,” Gates

said. “And this is the first step to make that happen. I’ve been hearing from a lot of people in the City of Dallas, and they share those feelings and want to see this happen.”

Some have criticized the bailout as being unfair to minority arts interests in Dallas. With respect to minority arts organizations, the increase in funding to the ATTPAC will come with accompanying increases to programs that are specifically targeted to minorities.

“If you have an increase to the Office of Cultural Affairs budget for contractual services and indirect support to, organizations whose mission is not culturally-specific – such as the ATTPAC – it shall be accompanied by corresponding percentage increases to the budget for services by, and indirect support to, culturally-specific and ethnic organizations,” Scripps said, citing city policies. “Once we figured out that this would trigger that, we needed to find \$285,000 for the cultural and ethnically-specific organizations.”

Furthermore, in the Sept. 21 meeting of the Dallas City Council, Griggs also successfully entered an amendment to provide for city support to smaller non-city-owned cultural arts organizations in Dallas. The motion passed, and \$400,000 will be set aside for use by four cultural arts

entities which meet the city’s criteria. Those funds will be pulled from the OCA’s maintenance budget.

At the same meeting, Councilmember Philip T. Kingston attempted to enter a motion to withdraw the \$1.5 million in support for the ATTPAC and divert it into street services. Mayor Rawlings refused to entertain the motion, and a call for hands to overturn the mayor’s refusal failed. The council then voted to place the ATTPAC bailout in the next year’s budget.

David Lozano, executive artistic director of the Cara Mia Theatre, a Hispanic performing arts organization, sought to get the city to consider a “Dallas Citywide Arts Impact Project” instead, and had launched a petition for this concept on Change.org.

“With our city-wide arts project, we were trying to create what we call ‘Pop-up Cultural Centers’ so that they would be a home base for community programming in these areas and that people could depend on it,” Lozano said. “So right now, it’s a conversation that’s on the table with the OCA. (Scripps) seems to like the idea, but it just couldn’t compete with the (ATTPAC) bailout.”

He noted the \$285,000 increase for culturally-specific and ethnic arts programs was a move in the right direction, but with the bailout winning council support, he has returned full focus onto

his theater group.

While the council has voted the bailout into the budget, the final terms of the agreement still require approval to go forward. A final draft of the agreement will be presented to the ACL committee on Oct. 17. If accepted, it will then go to vote by the full council on

Oct. 26.

“I haven’t seen the final draft yet,” Wilson said. “I have to see that make sure nothing has changed between what is being said now, or if anything has changed.”

“But anything we can do to increase the art exposure in the City of Dallas is a

great thing. Anytime we can begin to work with smaller arts organizations, to help them, I think is great. That way we can expose more communities to the arts that wouldn’t normally have the level of exposure. And it helps in a way to decentralize and expand the arts programs of the City of Dallas.”



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# College students try to dodge high textbook costs

The sticker shock that comes when college students take a look at the latest textbook prices is leading to some creative and unusual remedies.

In California, a partnership between West Valley College and Second Harvest Food Bank lets students borrow textbooks in exchange for canned-food donations.

At Bluefield College in Virginia, students can pay one flat, discounted fee that allows them to receive all their required textbooks before classes start.

"It's no wonder that colleges and students need to



openDemocracy / Flickr

think outside the box when it comes to textbooks; they represent a staggering cost that just seems to get worse," says Chris Manns of the price comparison websites CheapestTextbooks.com and TextbookRentals.com. Both free services help students locate

the cheapest prices for millions of books.

One study by the Student Public Interest Research Groups showed that the cost for college textbooks has risen 73 percent over the last decade – more than four times the inflation rate.

"Sometimes the expenses aren't even necessary," Manns says. "For example, students might be required to buy a 'book bundle' with extra class materials that add to the cost. Often professors don't even use some items in those bundles."

Outside of a few innovative programs, such as that textbook-in-exchange-for-food-donation arrangement, the options for most students boil down to buying or renting.

"Renting might seem the obvious choice because of the price," Manns says. "But that's not always the case.

When you look a little deeper, you could find you'd be better off buying the book and selling it later."

He says a few factors to consider when weighing rent vs. buy include:

- How soon do you want the book? Do you prefer getting your textbooks well before class starts? Then buying might be the way to go. When you rent textbooks, you need to return the book before the due date. If you rent too soon the due date will arrive before the semester ends. Hang onto the book and you'll be charged a late fee. Most of the time, this

added cost isn't much, but it can add up if you're really late getting the textbook back to the merchant, Manns says.

- Do you like convenience? If so, then renting is probably the best option. You don't have to worry about reselling the textbook after the class ends. Simply print a shipping label and send it back to the merchant.

- Is the book all you need? Sometimes students need to have supplemental software that comes with the textbook. But most textbook-rental merchants don't offer the

See TEST, Page 7

# Collin College dedicates new student center

On Sept. 27, Collin College dedicated a new student center on its Central Park Campus in McKinney, one of several recent steps to enhance the student experience throughout the dis-

trict. More than 220 students were in attendance for the dedication.

The multi-room center provides spaces for collaboration and relaxation, housing the new Student

Life offices near the main campus building's grand entrance, the student center offers a large vending and lounge area, a meetings and presentation area with television access, a video and

gaming area, a recreation area for table tennis and a pool table, a large outdoor patio with shaded furniture, meeting rooms which can be reserved for collaboration, a slightly larger "infor-

mal gatherings area" that does not need to be reserved, individual quiet zones and a technology bar for tech charging and personal recharging.

The center was developed

in the space formerly housing the campus's conference center.

The district opened a conference center at Central Park Campus in the fall of 2015.

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# Fall Carnival series brings fun to Irving rec centers

Children of all ages are invited to the Fall Carnival Series hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. The fall carnivals will be held at various recreation centers throughout the city (see schedule below).

Tickets are 25 cents each

or five for \$1 at Northwest, Georgia Farrow, Lee and Senter. Mustang and Cimarron carnivals will sell wristbands for \$10 each, which allow for unlimited play at all games and activities. Activities, which vary by location, will include carnival

games, prizes, cakewalks, bounce houses and concessions. Call each recreation center for specific details.

• Oct. 21 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Northwest Park Recreation Center, 2800 Cheyenne St., (972) 721-2529

• Oct. 21 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Georgia Farrow Recre-

ation Center, 530 Davis Dr., (972) 721-2519

• Oct. 21 – 6 to 9:30 p.m. Mustang Park Recreation Center, 2223 Kinwest Pkwy., (972) 556-1334

• Oct. 28 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lee Park Recreation Center, 3000 Pamela Dr.,

(972) 721-2508

• Oct. 28 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cimarron Park Recreation Center, 201 Red River Trail, (972) 910-0702

• Oct. 28 – 6 to 8:30 p.m. Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter St. (972) 721-2641



## Downtown Plano designated Cultural District by the State of Texas

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) recently announced the designation of seven new cultural districts, including the Downtown Plano Cultural District. Approved districts are special zones which harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization by generating business, attracting tourists, stimulating cultural development and fostering civic pride. The outcomes of cultural districts extend beyond the arts and benefit all members of a community.

“We are very excited to be recognized as an official cultural district,” said Michelle Hawkins, Arts, Culture & Heritage Manager, City of Plano. “Many people worked long and hard to create the activities and energy in Downtown Plano, and being recognized for it is such an honor. This tells us we’re on the right track!”

There are 35 designated cultural districts in Texas approved by the TCA. Cultural districts create a hub of economic activity which contribute to the community being an appealing place to

live, visit and conduct business. A thriving cultural scene helps an area to prosper when consumers drawn to cultural attractions patronize other nearby businesses. This can result in the creation of new economic opportunities and jobs.

The establishment of a cultural district provides a focal point for celebrating and strengthening a community’s cultural identity. Cultural districts highlight existing cultural amenities and work to recruit and establish new artists, cultural industries and organizations.

## Event explores links between poverty, race, crime and law enforcement

Collin College will hold a panel discussion on issues of poverty, race, crime and law enforcement from 6-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18 in the Preston Ridge Campus Conference Center, 9700 Wade Blvd. in Frisco. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Join representatives of the academic community, law enforcement and community stakeholders in an interactive discussion of the issues of poverty, race and crime, and their dynamics in our communities. Topics will include criminology research,

theories of the study of race and incidents of police brutality, and advocates for resolution.

The event is sponsored by Collin College Interdisciplinary Committee on Poverty, Race and Crime.

“In light of recent local and national events, the committee felt it prudent to provide a safe environment for healthy dialogue on these issues,” said Dr. Stephanie James, professor of criminology at Collin College and event host.

For more information, contact csce@collin.edu .

Collin College serves more than 53,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degrees and certificates in a wide range of disciplines. The only public college in the county, The college operates the Collin Higher Education Center, which serves 3,300 additional students each year in partnership with The University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Woman’s University, Texas A&M Commerce, Texas Tech and the University of North Texas.

## BOOKS, continued from Page 6

supplemental software when you rent a textbook, Manns says.

Right now, most students are between the typical book-buying times. Their fall classes are already underway and they likely won’t be buying textbooks for the spring semester until early January.

But Manns says it could be financially prudent to start planning now for how to get the best bargains.

“Many college students are already strapped for cash, counting out coins to pay for a meal or worrying about whether they’ll have enough gas money to get home for a

holiday,” Manns says. “They need to look for ways to save everywhere, and if they can get by without a textbook or at least with a cheaper version, then so much the better.”

Chris Manns is the managing director of the price-comparison websites Cheapest-Textbooks.com and TextbookRentals.com.

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- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF CURRENT UTILITY BILL
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF BANK STATEMENT
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF GOVERNMENT CHECK
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF PAYCHECK
- ORIGINAL OR COPY OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS (ORIGINAL REQUIRED IF IT CONTAINS A PHOTOGRAPH)



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**GARLAND  
Fall Trash Bash**

Keep Garland Beautiful invites individuals, groups and organizations to help clean up the community! Register today for the annual Fall Trash Bash, scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Granger Recreation Center Annex, 1310 W. Avenue F. New this year is an optional trash bag pledge drive to help fund upcoming litter campaigns. After the litter cleanup, return to the Granger Recreation Center Annex for a volunteer appreciation picnic at 11 a.m.

Those interested may register on-site on Oct. 15, or register in



advance by contacting KeepGarlandBeautiful@gmail.com.

**McKINNEY  
ISD hosts Holiday Bazaar**

McKinney ISD is promising this year's one-stop shopping experience featuring over 100 vendors with arts and crafts, unique gifts, décor and collectibles for all seasons. The 2016 Holiday Bazaar will be held Saturday, Oct. 22 at McKinney High School

from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Proceeds benefit McKinney ISD Partners in Education programs.

**LEWISVILLE  
911 testing now  
available to residents**

Residents of Lewisville, and all of Denton County, have a new tool at their disposal should they need help in an emergency situation and are unable to speak or hear. The Denco Area 9-1-1 District now accommodates text-to-911, which allows residents and visitors to interact with public safety agencies via the text message feature of their wireless phone.

# Texas Voters: Get the facts about Voter ID law

By Carlos Cascos  
Texas Secretary of State

Voting helps determine the future of our cities, counties, state, and nation. As the Texas Secretary of State, I am the state's chief election officer charged with ensuring all eligible Texans know what they need to do to cast their ballots.

My office has undertaken a statewide voter education campaign engaging voters and working to ensure that all qualified voters in Texas understand what they need to bring to the polls in order to vote in ongoing and upcoming elections.

If a voter possesses a form of approved photo ID, the voter must use it to vote. Currently, there are seven forms of acceptable photo ID in Texas:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas License to Carry a Handgun issued by DPS
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- S. passport
- S. citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- S. military identification card containing the person's photograph

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the approved photo ID must be current or have expired no more than four years before being presented for



voter qualification at the polling place. If the voter has continued access to their acceptable form of photo ID, but, for example, forgets to bring it to the polling place and/or leaves it, for example, at home or in their car, the voter still possesses the acceptable form of photo ID and must use it to vote.

If the voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of the seven forms of approved photo ID, the voter has additional options when casting their ballot in person. As provided by court order, if a voter does not possess and is not reasonably able to obtain one of the seven forms of approved photo ID, the voter may vote by (1) signing a declaration at the polls explaining why the voter is reasonably unable to obtain one of the seven forms of approved photo ID, and (2) providing one of various forms of supporting documentation.

A voter whose photo identification has been lost, stolen, suspended, revoked or expired more than four years does not possess one of the acceptable forms of photo ID, and, if the voter cannot reasonably obtain a replacement of the identification that was lost, stolen, suspended, revoked or expired or another form of acceptable photo ID, the voter is eligible to present a supporting form of identification, execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, and, assuming they otherwise qualify, vote a regular ballot.

Supporting documentation can be a certified birth certificate (must be an original), a valid voter registration certificate, a copy or original of one of the following: current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck, or other government

See VOTER, Page 16

# The Birth of a Nation is a treasure unearthed

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

Finally, a filmmaker unearths one of the biggest secrets in American history: slave revolts. It's a lesson rarely mentioned in history books, though it's common knowledge to anyone who has taken a Black History course. There are many facets of this movie that are groundbreaking, historic, monumental and unique.

In the evolution of the American film industry few films have ventured into the subject of slavery. Some have misleadingly romanticized the era (*Gone With the Wind*). Some have made fun of it and belittled its tragic consequences (*Django Unchained*). Some have eloquently captured the suffering (*12 Years a Slave*). Some have revealed rebellions from a White man's perspective (*Free State of Jones*). None have captured the spirit and emotion of the time, the courage and bravery of resistance and the calculated planning and execution of a rebellion from the viewpoint of African American culture. Until now.

Throughout the film, the script by Parker and Jean McGianni Celestin establishes and maintains a spiritual destiny that never wanes. There are moments that the Nat Turner they have created has Christ-like, martyr-like attributes. How much of this is based on fact or is manufactured to produce a character that audiences will root for is up for debate. One thing for sure is that the real Nat Turner was a courageous man who gave his life for freedom, and the one on-screen takes over that mantle very well.

For a first-time filmmaker, Parker makes no huge gaffes. He finds and keeps a tone, pulls Oscar-worthy performances from his cast and sets everything in motion in a thoroughly engaging manner that is



Nate Parker directed, produced and stars in "The Birth of a Nation." (Fox Searchlight)

sustained for 118 minutes. With the skill of directors with ten times his experience, he blends drama, psychodrama, romance, spirituality and action into a relentless, uncompromising classic.

By most epics' standards, this is concise storytelling (editor Steven Rosenblum) that is perfectly set in the 19th century (Jim Ferrell, set decorator; Geoffrey Kirkland, production designer). The characters wear clothes that looked lived in (Francine Jamison-Tanchuck, costume designer) and when they are injured their cuts and bruises look scarily real (Randi Owens Arroyo, makeup artist). And every element is captured by a very perceptive lens (Elliot Davis, cinematographer).

It is a miracle that Parker can write the script, produce the movie, direct the proceedings and still turn in what has to be one of the most difficult and emotionally complex performances of the year. His character evolves from jovial, young man, to preacher with guilt, to loving protective husband and father, to angry rebel seamlessly. Every feeling he exhibits seems authentic.

Parker's portrayal peaks in a pivotal scene when Cherry lies on a bed of white sheets, bludgeoned, and he assures her that

everything will be all right, even though life couldn't be worse. The two actors cry and hold each other in a way that creates an indelible moment. Before, and more now, the audience is waiting and ready for Turner to take matters into his own hands. And so is Cherry: "If the Lord has called you to fight, you fight for me. You fight for all of us."

Ensemble acting is rarely this flawless. Usually one actor overdoes it, or one is not up to snuff. Not here. Hammer as the friendly, then cold, Samuel makes you never question his motivation. Colman Domingo as Nat's cohort gives depth to his role in ways that deserve acclaim. Aunjanue Ellis as the mother and Esther Scott as the grandmother, are stoic. Penelope Ann Miller, through the character of Elizabeth Turner, aptly conveys a sense of nurturing, confusion, shock and fear. Villains come and villains go, but Jackie Earle Haley's interpretation of Raymond Cobb, a "paddy roller," a White man who monitored and enforced discipline upon Black slaves, is one of the most vile you will ever see.

A rebellion and a subsequent massacre happened in the backwoods of Southampton County, Va. on August 21, 1831. Those events foreshadowed the

Civil War. And now millions have the chance to learn a part of Black history that few know.

It is so fitting that the brilliant Nate Parker has called his great opus "The Birth of a Nation." If there is justice in this world and the afterlife, D.W. Griffith, the racist director of the 1915 propaganda film of the same title, is turning over in his grave.

This is a story that had to be told. And must be retold again and again.

Dwight Brown is a film critic and travel writer. As a film critic, he regularly attends international film festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the American Black Film Festival. Read more movie reviews by Dwight Brown here and at [DwightBrown-Ink.com](http://DwightBrown-Ink.com).

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# Art Centre Theatre presents *The Rocky Horror Show*

For the eighth year in a row Art Centre Theatre will make you shiver with anticipation. When a healthy couple leaves denton one night a flat tire leads them on an exciting adventure the likes of which they can not control. The cult classic is brought to life in a live rendition of this tantalizing story. A young and sexy cast. Beautiful and intricate sets. Rockin' vocals

that will blow you out of your seats. Join us for an R-rated adventure, prop bags available for purchase at the door.

The Rocky Horror Show opens at 10:30pm on Friday October 21st 2016 and runs every Friday and Saturday at 10:30pm until Saturday November 5th 2016. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.artcentretheatre.com](http://www.artcentretheatre.com) or at the door. For a

complete schedule and full details visit [artcentretheatre.com](http://artcentretheatre.com). The Art Centre Theatre is located at 5220 Village Creek Drive, Plano, 75093. For press passes, please contact Jamey Jamison @ [capys@aol.com](mailto:capys@aol.com).

The Art Centre Theatre strives to offer a full range of professional theatre. Selected works will include classic, contemporary and new plays that audiences

will find entertaining as well as thought provoking. Involvement from the community will cross all demographic lines to include educational programs and community service projects.

The theatre is located at 5220 Village Creek Dr. Plano, Texas 75093 – 214-810-3228. For further information, please visit our website [www.artcentretheatre.com](http://www.artcentretheatre.com)



Rocky and Frank are two of the characters presented in this stage adaptation of the cult film classic.

## Texas/OU academic pep rally planned for Dade MS

Representative Eric Johnson has teamed up with the Dallas Independent School District, the University of Texas at Austin, and two-time "Academic All Big 12" Oklahoma University former football player Dane Zaslaw to host a TX/OU-themed academic pep rally at Billy Earl Dade Middle School on Friday, Oct. 7, 2016.

Dallas ISD Trustee Bernadette Nutall, Rep. Johnson, and Zaslaw will all speak to the students and motivate them to focus on their academic careers and aim for matriculation at the college of their choice.

There will be a special guest appearance by the University of Texas at Austin's cheerleaders, who will perform with the Dade Middle School cheerleaders and band. Students have been encouraged to don either UT or OU school colors that day in order to get into the spirit of TX/OU weekend.

The rally will begin at 9:30 a.m. Dade M.S. is located at 2727 Al Lipscomb Way in Dallas. For more information, contact Mary at 682-559-4062 or [mary.elbanna@gmail.com](mailto:mary.elbanna@gmail.com).

## Not-to-miss attractions at the 2016 State Fair

The State Fair of Texas is upon us and the annual event hosts a plethora of family-friendly attractions, shows and activities in Dallas' historic Fair Park. While planning your day at the State Fair, here are some attractions to keep in mind when filling out your itinerary.

- Amidst the blue ribbon-winning contest entries displayed throughout the Creative Arts building lies an equally unique creation – the State Fair butter sculpture. The talented Ken Robison will take hold of the 2016 butter sculpture project based on this year's theme "Celebrating Texas Agriculture." The sculpture, made from several thousand pounds of butter, is set to portray last year's award winning Charolais breed steer sold at the auction.

Catch this event starting on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. in the Creative Arts Building.

- The Texas State Fair hosts the largest new car auto show in the Southwest, showcasing approximately 400 of the latest models from the world's leading manufacturers. Bring your family and check out the hottest new rides, while also enjoying fun interactives and live entertainment. Whether you're a diehard car fanatic or you just like to look around at the latest new models, this show is



The State Fair of Texas features the largest new car showcase in the Southwest region (Photo: Texas State Fair)

the ultimate destination for all things auto. Ideal for fairgoers looking to purchase a new car, or simply learn more about today's available options, the Auto Show is full of experts from each of the manufacturing companies, ready to help you with any questions you may have.

Catch all the automotive fun on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. in the Automobile & Centennial Buildings.

- Tour the natural beauty and abundant resources found around the lone-star state through the "I Spy Texas" interactive exhibit located in the Science Museum. Guided by road-trip style games, fairgoers will experience the different natural resources and economies found in each region of Texas.

The exhibit opens Oct. 7 and runs from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. in the Science Place

Nimitz Drive across from the Creative Arts Building, features three different wineries each day and offers guests the choice of buying a small taste, glass or bottle of wine.

The State Fair Wine Garden opens on Oct. 7 and runs from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

- The child-friendly design of the recently-renovated Children's Aquarium offers interactive exhibits for hands-on exploration including a coastal touch pool filled with horseshoe crabs, hermit crabs, lobsters and more.

The outdoor pavilion features Stingray Bay, where

guests can feed and interact with cownose rays. Daily feeding demos vary between sharks, piranhas, sea turtles, American alligators, alligator snapping turtles and moray eels. In addition, visitors can feed cownose stingrays daily. Zebra sharks, nurse sharks, a blue-eyed sea turtle and other coastal creatures swim nearby in a larger pool.

The Children's Aquarium opens Oct. 7 and runs from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

The State Fair of Texas runs until Oct. 23 with gates opening at 7 a.m. and the midway staying open until 10 p.m..

**STATE FAIR OF TEXAS**

**SEPT. 30 - OCT. 23, 2016**

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## DFW's costly labor shortage threatens area's competitive advantage

A lack of workers continues to delay the delivery of new construction and increase costs. In a recent survey, 70 percent of Dallas BA builder members reported that the labor shortage has added more than \$4,000 per home in the form of increased costs and delays. Builders simply cannot keep up with the housing demands of more than 100,000 new jobs coming to the Metroplex. Material prices are increasing as well, 80 percent of builders surveyed reported that price increases for concrete have had a significant impact on their business.

Overall, Dallas-Fort

Worth home prices are hitting record highs. Overall prices are about 40% more than what they were a few years ago, but are still competitive nationally to the point where companies and workers are flocking to the area for its low cost of living.

"I'm worried that the MetroPlex is in danger of losing the affordability advantages that have been a major factor for our prosperity," said Dallas BA Executive Officer Phil Crone. "Low supply and high demand for labor, combined with increasing local regulations, are the reasons why prices are at record highs. If

we keep acquiring the attributes of markets people are fleeing, our area will lose the competitive advantage that has made it the nation's top housing market."

The labor market has yet to recover following the recession that drove nearly 30% of construction workers into new fields. The workforce that remains, especially for skilled labor, is aging, and thousands are expected to retire in the next 10 years. The average age of a carpenter is 49; the average age of a plumber is 56. Additionally, the number of people entering the trades and apprenticeship programs is not keeping up with the

demand. Half the builders surveyed by the Dallas BA in September reported that the labor shortage has added two months or more to their construction timelines.

One builder commented, "Labor costs have more than doubled for me in the last 18-24 months. The time delay alone is costing me more than \$4,000 per home including interest carry and taxes." Another builder opined, "I still get workers, but instead of 12 guys on a framing crew, I get four. I need six trim carpenters, but I'm lucky to get two. They work hard, but it is impossible for them to finish on time."

Despite these headwinds, total residential building permit activity has increased 20% year-over-year to an annualized rate of 53,647 units in July. Single-family building permit issuance increased 8.5% to 28,643 units

while multifamily issuance increased 36.5% to 25,013 units. August had a record high for sales, with about 10,860 existing homes sold, according to data from North Texas Real Estate Information systems.

## \$2 million available to support small business training

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Skills for Small Business program has announced \$2 million in funding to support collaborations between Workforce Solutions partners and small businesses. Businesses with fewer than 100 employees can apply to TWC for training offered by a local community or technical college, or the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).

"TWC is proud to support the continued innovation and growth of the small businesses that form the backbone of our state economy through the Skills for Small Business program," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "Through Skills for Small Business, Texas employers can use the valuable, customized training offered through our community and technical college partners to quickly equip their workers with the skills needed to succeed."

Small businesses interested in training for their employees may be eligible to receive up to \$1,800 to train new workers and up to \$900 to train existing workers. The Skills for Small Business program provides state-funded training to

businesses to meet their business needs, with an emphasis on training new workers or upgrading skills of incumbent workers.

"There are approximately 470,000 small businesses in Texas and they employ nearly half of the state's private workforce," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. "The Skills for Small Business program requires a simple application process and provides additional education and designated training opportunities needed for today's employers."

Since the program's inception in 2010, Skills for Small Business has awarded \$5.7 million in grants to meet the training needs of small businesses.

"Workers employed by small businesses play a key role in the success of the state," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. "This program will help increase access to necessary training for new and incumbent employees and ultimately help connect our labor force to employment in one of Texas' many small businesses."

Employers seeking more information about the Skills

for Small Business program, including applications and information about how to apply may visit the TWC Skills for Small Business for Employees web page.

Community Colleges

who would like more information on this program should visit the Skills for Small Business webpage for Training Providers or contact a local Workforce Solutions office.



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# DCCCD students gear up for careers in automotive technology

Summer Miller already knows a lot about cars.

As a service technician for a Ford dealership, Miller wants to master her knowledge about cars with an associate degree in automotive technology from Brookhaven College, where she is a second-year student. "I love cars. In class, we're going through transmissions and how they break down," she said.

Miller learned the basics of auto mechanics on her family's farm in Decatur. Whenever anything broke down, no one looked for a mechanic. "It was easier to fix things in a carport than to haul it to town. And it was cheaper too," said Miller, who is 21.

Her experience at

Brookhaven is another level of training that's providing enhanced skills. "This is my third semester. I'm paying my own tuition and will come out fully certified in every aspect that Ford has training for," Miller said. "I've got seven certificates from Ford. I'm trying to shore up my credentials. Here, they help us apply what we've learned."

Sometimes customers express surprise at her age and gender. But Miller quickly reassures them that she knows what she's doing.

"At first, they're shocked to see a girl, but then they're happy because they realize (automotive technology) is not just for guys. They ask me questions and I answer them. Then they

ask what got me into this (field) and I tell them that I love working on cars. That seems to help," she explained.

A combination of the hands-on training at both Brookhaven and Ford puts her on the path to become a well-rounded technician who could one day manage a dealership, said Shane Baxter, one of Miller's instructors at Brookhaven.

## A career with traction

Matthew Lane, a second-year student at Brookhaven, said cars were always a hobby for him. The laboratory and lectures at Brookhaven are an asset to his work at a Chevrolet dealership. "By the time I was a sophomore in high school, I thought I could

turn this into a career, and it's been awesome ever since," said Lane, an entry-level worker.

Brookhaven, he said, gives him a leg up as he pursues his dream of becoming a full-time electrical technician. "This is a game changer with specialized classes for whatever you want to learn. It could be engines or transmissions or brakes," he added.

Brookhaven instructors stress the importance of learning to juggle multiple assignments.

"They learn how to inspect a car, change air filters and oil and fuel filters, but integrity is one of the most important things you can learn," Baxter said. "We're trying to produce an honest

level of technicians because people do not trust mechanics. They don't want to spend the money, and Texas doesn't regulate technicians – so integrity and honesty become very important."

Baxter also is a graduate of Brookhaven's automotive program. Recently, he taught class with no air conditioning – a scenario that mimics what some mechanics deal with every day: intense September heat.

"Welcome to life," Baxter said. "To do this without air conditioning is what happens in a lot of shops. They work outdoors, so this is part of the training."

DCCCD students work on cars that have been donated to the schools.

Three DCCCD colleges

offer auto tech programs, cultivate corporate partnerships

Preventative maintenance, diesel and heavy equipment are good career bets, and they are courses that typically broaden the knowledge of current technicians, although the auto tech program attracts students with various skills. Certificates are offered as part of factory-sponsored training from various car companies that have collaborated with DCCCD through Brookhaven, Eastfield and Cedar Valley colleges.

In addition to car repair, courses are offered in auto body technology for people

See GEAR, Page 16

## AUTO, continued from Page 3

population diversity in the United States continues to grow and expand, the casual rhetorical utterances about the demands for "diversity and inclusion" in corporate America oftentimes have not produced desired results, especially for Black Americans, with respect to economic advancement, parity, equity and equality. Updated research and information about these issues within the automotive industry, today, reveal serious contradictions as well as equity inconsistencies in the face of increased auto purchases by Blacks across the nation.

Although, the auto industry has experienced record sales over the past few years, the industry's investment in advertising and marketing with African American-owned media companies, ensuring that African American-owned dealerships, and African Americans in the corporate executive suites and board rooms all are lacking the evidence of inclusion and equality.

The recovery of the auto industry in America has not produced an equitable economic recovery for African Americans.

Jackson, the founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, stated that,

"African Americans are the only group not recovered from the recovery. While there's an increasing respect for African American customers and companies, respect without economic parity is as the Bible says, '...a noisy gong or clanging cymbal,' we must demand our fair share, so that we can fully

cent during the past 10 years.

African American dealerships decreased since 2005 from 75 to 265 today. Ownership of Black businesses is an indicator of the economic vitality of the Black American community. The National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers reported that of the more than 19,000 car dealers in the United States, African Americans

spect us.

According to research by Polk IHS, African Americans are the most loyal buyers with 51 percent returning to the brands they choose. African American new vehicle volume growth is nearly double overall industry growth (9.4 percent versus 5 percent).

Noted research scholar, Damon Autry, presented a scholarly paper at the auto summit entitled, "The Swinging Pendulum of Diversity." Autry concluded, "Diversity counterbalances the decades of White-dominated thought that, history shows, has ignored and/or marginalized African Americans and all people of color in the workplace. One can surmise that those in power, in one breath, tout the importance of diversity in corporate America, yet in the other dismiss it out of hand while going through the obligatory steps as a sign of compliance—all for the sake of expedience."

Thus in 2016, we are not begging for charity from corporate America. We are demanding equity. To the automotive industry in particular and to all those industries that benefit and profit from the \$1.3 trillion annual spending of Black America, we say, "Treat us fair. Treat us just. Treat us with respect. We demand equality."

### The following 2016 African American Auto Dealer Landscape Report was issued at the Rainbow PUSH auto summit:

|     | Brand         | Total Dealers | African American Dealers |
|-----|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1.  | BMW           | 365           | 7                        |
| 2.  | Fiat Chrysler | 2,385         | 27                       |
| 3.  | Ford          | 3,238         | 63                       |
| 4.  | GM            | 4,245         | 49                       |
| 5.  | Honda         | 1,042         | 8                        |
| 6.  | Hyundai       | 827           | 12                       |
| 7.  | Jaguar        | 147           | 0                        |
| 8.  | Kia           | 770           | 7                        |
| 9.  | Mazda         | 640           | 3                        |
| 10. | Mercedes      | 376           | 7                        |
| 11. | Nissan        | 1,077         | 21                       |
| 12. | Toyota        | 1,245         | 14                       |
| 13. | Volkswagen    | 653           | 8                        |

participate ... It's time to move from diversity to equality."

Recent studies show that Black America's auto purchases contribute more than \$35 billion to annual automaker revenue. Despite this fact, Black American dealers have declined 65 per-

only currently make up 1.4 percent of auto dealers.

We cannot afford to keep spending with companies that do not respect us with economic equality. We should do business with those who do business with us. We should support and respect those who support and re-

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales

and partnership proposals at: [dr.bchavis@nnpa.org](mailto:dr.bchavis@nnpa.org); and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcfc>.



Pyramid Network Services proposes to build a 90-foot Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 7200 S RL Thornton Freeway, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75232. 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, Andrew, a.bray@trileaf.com, 2550 S I-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704.

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# Free legal clinic and job fair in October

The Verna's H.E.L.P. Foundation and the CAW CLARK LEGAL Clinic, with Co Sponsors – Dallas URBAN HEALTH and VERNA'S VENTURE'S LLC, is inviting the Dallas Metro Community to a free Diversified Legal Clinic and Job Fair- Oct 15 and 17, at the Good Street Baptist Church, 3110 Bonnie.

The upcoming October event- The Legal Clinic and Job Fair, is a two day event. Saturday, Oct. 15, the Legal Clinic, attendees will be able to discuss, one on one with Probate, Tax, and Criminal Attorneys, Judges, Dallas County D. A. Attorneys, Dallas County Probation Consultants and other legal profes-

sionals, to assist with any or all questions about their legal concerns. Private conference rooms will be available for each concern.

At this legal clinic Dallas Veterans Affairs will have consultants to assist many veterans about benefits and the HUD-VASH PROGRAM (A HUD Housing program) and to discuss information to veterans that need help with housing.

The annual Job Fair Monday Oct. 17, 8:a.m to 5:p.m., will host numerous employers/agencies to promote and recruit for job opportunities. We are inviting many Dallas' Business Owners, Manufacturers, Hospitals, and Retailers to help sponsor this job fair,

with intentions of each employer to interview and hire eligible participants on that day.

This event we are inviting all races of people, those with many years of professional, clerical and warehouse experience. Also people with moderate, criminal offenses – felonies, misdemeanors, and infractions. We ask that the employers would consider interviewing and/or hiring on that day.

We're encouraging employers to consider "The Work Opportunity Tax Credit" (WOTC) is a Federal tax credit available to employers who hire individuals from eligible target groups with significant bar-

riers to employment. Each year, employers claim over \$1 billion in tax credits under the WOTC program. The success and growth of this income tax credit for business is beneficial for all who participate, while increasing America's economic growth and productivity.

WOTC reduces an employer's cost of doing business, requires little paperwork, and applying for WOTC is simple.

WOTC can reduce an employer's federal income tax liability by as much as \$9,600 per employee hired. • There is no limit on the number of individuals an employer can hire to qualify to claim the tax credit.

# TWC announces Texas HireAbility Campaign

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has partnered with the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and Texas Workforce Solutions to launch the Texas HireAbility campaign to raise awareness about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. The campaign is launched in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month to highlight the contributions of people with disabilities in the workforce. Governor Greg Abbott has issued a proclamation for Disability Employment Awareness Month in Texas. The Texas HireAbility campaign will feature statewide events and resources for employers and job-seekers with disabilities.

"We are proud to kick off the Texas HireAbility campaign to connect the significant skills and abilities of

people with disabilities with opportunities created by Texas employers," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "Through this campaign, employers will better connect to these valuable workers to meet their workforce needs."

Texas HireAbility resources for employers will include a Workplace Accessibility Webinar which employers can access on-demand from the Texas HireAbility website in early October. TWC will also connect employers to resources on re-

cruiting, hiring and retaining employees with disabilities through the TWC Solutions blog and other social media channels.

"Employers are always looking for innovative ways to expand their businesses by hiring skilled workers," said

See HIRE, Page 16

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**October 9, 9:45 a.m.**

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed.

**October 12, 7 p.m.**

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson and Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 5, Chapter 1." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor  
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www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON**

**October 9, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

**October 12**

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor  
701 Centennial  
972-991-0200  
Richardson, TX 75081  
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

**FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"**

**October 9, 8 a.m.**

You're invited to our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive for morning service and a blessing from God; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you and see them blessed by God.

**October 12, 12 p.m.**

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. 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  
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at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive

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**October 9, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.**

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

**October 10, 7 p.m.**

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

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**MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)**

**October 9, 10 a.m.**

Join us for Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

**October 12, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our

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

October 26-28, 7:30 p.m. Nightly  
Join us for MOCOP's Vision Summit 2016 with speakers Dr. C. J. Mathews, Reign International Church; Pastor Sam Fenceroy, MOCOP and Dr. Martian Williams, Ambassadors Worship Center.  
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**October 9, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.**

Join us for Worship Services and fellowship as we give God all glory, honor and praise.

**Ends October 10, 2016**  
You're invited to our Shiloh Bible Institute - Fall Classes. The cost is \$15 per class and is open to members, family, and friends interested in learning about the Bible. Click here for more information and online registration.

**October 12, 7 p.m.**

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; it's all for His glory and His honor. Our AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed from 2 Timothy 2:15) is held from 6:30 - 8:15 pm, now through May.

Kick-off was September 7th. There is no charge for registration for new participants! This is a Bible-based program for children and youth, ages three years old through the 12th grade. The emphasis is on memorizing the Word of God and developing a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ in a structured, safe and fun environment. Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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# Unforgiveness hurts



Send email to: [businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if you have aught against any: that your Father also which is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

"But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses."

**Mark 11:25-26 (KJV)**

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

**Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV)**

For a few years, I have been reminded of a statement that a young lady said, "We didn't realize how

much that unforgiveness impacted our own lives."

She was making the statement after realizing how much she had missed in her life because she had been hurt and had not forgiven an individual.

We should become keenly aware that in our world and society, people need people. God created us with a need for fellowship and companionship.

The Bible says, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." **Genesis 2:18**

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion . . ."

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." **Genesis 1: 26-27**

No man is an island and can stand alone. Who among us have not made a terrible mistake?

Who among us haven't wished that we could take back something that was

spoken in anger to anyone, especially to a loved one or a friend?

Who among us haven't done something that we would be ashamed to confess to others?

Who among us haven't had to cry out to God for His help? I have read and heard many stories of individuals finally forgiving after long periods of time; they talk about how much they have hurt and missed in their life because they waited so long

to forgive.

Life doesn't stop when you don't forgive someone. Perhaps that person asked for your forgiveness and you refused.

When God saw that they were remorseful, He allowed them to move on with their life while you stayed in a state of self-pity, you couldn't see the forest for the trees.

Most people hate road constructions where they encounter them; it's an inconvenience and it takes us

longer to get where we are going.

Everything is in a mess, you are caught off guard when things are placed in unusual places and the natural flow of traffic takes you off the main road on bumpy surfaces.

But what joy when the work is complete, how beautiful the scenery when the work is done. But, we must remember that until we pass from this life to the next, we are all under construction in our walk with God.

Sometimes God takes us through our own life re-construction project, as well as

family and friends.

There are times that we may do or say something that is not God-like; yet God still loves and forgives us.

There are times that someone in your life will say or do something that they need forgiveness from you.

Just as we want God to have patience and forgive us, we need to have patience and forgive others.

At times this is not an easy task; and you need God's love and help to forgive, but if you ask Him, He can give you the love and strength to forgive.



Senior Pastor Sam Fenceroy, Mount Olive Church of Plano (MOCOP) and his T-shirt pushing unity among all races, colors and creed of people.

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Mount Olive Church of Plano

**NDGtv** 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](http://NorthDallasGazette.com)

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7:00 p.m.

Pastor De W. Stafford, Sr.

# NDG Book Review: *Dream a World Anew* celebrates Black history

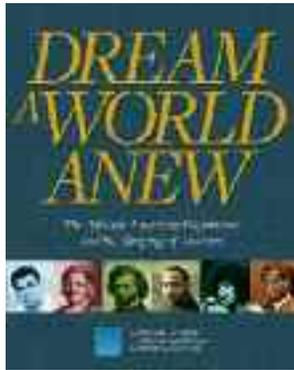
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

There's so much you wish you'd kept.

Of course, you never thought of that when things were thrown out: your grandmother's favorite skirt, a poster your uncle hung on his wall, an autographed picture of a minor star from the 1920s. You'd cherish them today, but they're gone forever – or are they? In *"Dream a World Anew"* by the National Museum of African American History & Culture, you'll find those kinds of things – and more.

The new Smithsonian Museum began, in essence, with slavery.

In looking at the world's



history, slavery was nothing new; it was even practiced in Africa in earlier centuries. This time, however – beginning with Portuguese slave ships in about 1440 – it would lead to the largest forced migration of humans, ever: more than 12 million "Africans of enormous cultural diversity" were shack-

led, marched cross-country and transported across the Atlantic Ocean. The numbers were so high that, just three-and-a-half centuries after it began, "black people formed 20 percent of the population of the new United States."

Those new citizens fought on behalf of America in the Revolutionary War and, because of the "chaos of war," were often freed after service. Slaves, in fact, often found it easier to demand release then, a "First Emancipation" that didn't last long; by the early 1800s, the plantation system ensured that slavery continued.

Freed at the end of the Civil War, black citizens

formed schools, started businesses, created products, and founded small towns, despite the onus of Southern sharecropping. Many migrated north, where discrimination still existed but Jim Crow laws weren't quite as burdensome as they were in the South and lynchings weren't nearly as common. They fought the same battles alongside whites (or in racially-divided military companies) in other wars, then they came home to more discrimination – which ultimately, in part, led to a national fight for civil rights. And through the centuries, African Americans left a trail of culture: songs from Africa; unique dance

"styles and techniques;" minstrelsy and vaudeville acts; music, literature, art, and poetry.

I have to admit: at first, I was a little disappointed in *"Dream a World Anew."* What's inside – the narrative – seemed like everything I'd heard before. So I flipped the book over and started paging through it again...

While it's true that familiar names are everywhere in this book – Wheatley, Turner, Douglass, Truth, Tubman – readers will also be absolutely treated to stories and mini-biographies from regular people throughout history. The familiar names are rightfully here, but it's those everyday

tales that I couldn't get enough of.

And then there are the items you'll see here, and in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture: a skirt worn by someone's enslaved grandmother. Handbills, photographs, pottery, and medals, ships logs and shoes, quilts and posters and bric-a-brac that all tells a story.

No more disappointment. I loved this book, and I think you will, too. If you enjoy history or if you're planning a visit to our Nation's capital, *"Dream a World Anew"* is a souvenir you'll want kept.

## HIRE, continued from Page 13

TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. "Through the Texas HireAbility campaign, employers will have access to additional resources to help them connect with this segment of the workforce."

As part of the campaign's launch in October, TWC will partner with Texas Workforce Solutions offices across the state to promote job and hiring fairs to connect Texas employers with job-seekers with disabilities. These events will be ongoing and will provide opportunities for employers to receive resumes and applications, as well as conduct onsite or post-event interviews.

TWC will also partner to support events to help employers learn more about recruiting, hiring and retaining employees with disabilities.

"Employers move to Texas because of our strong and diverse workforce," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. "I encourage all Texans to celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities and to support Texas' commitment to workforce diversity this October and beyond."

For a full schedule of events and to learn more about National Disability Employment Awareness Month, visit [TXHireAbility.texasworkforce.org](http://TXHireAbility.texasworkforce.org).



Wikipedia

## GEAR, continued from Page 12

who are interested in repairing, rebuilding and refinishing damaged vehicles.

The role of computers and advanced technology goes a long way in servicing cars, said Don Jones, who directs Brookhaven's automotive technology program. Maintaining high performance cars goes far beyond doing an oil change or a tire rotation or diagnosing funny sounds under the hood. DCCCD students, Jones said, are on the cutting edge of new technology, including automotive safety such as backup cameras that are designed to prevent crashes or reduce the chance of accidents.

"I tell my students, no matter what a technician chooses to do, there's technology involved," said Jones. "There are tire pressure monitoring systems and back-up sensors, voice controls – all of the new gadgets that provide consumers with an enhanced sense of safety."

Skills taught to seasoned professionals and individuals who are new to automotive technology are based on accepted shop procedures that make students "workforce ready" and able to address the needs of an expanding auto industry.

"If this field is something you're willing to learn,

there's a future for you," Jones said. "There are no unemployed good technicians. There's nobody out there who has these skills and who's looking for a job. We are constantly fielding calls from employers."

Automotive technology is complex. There are extensive electronic components, satellite guidance systems, multi-valve computer-controlled engines. And it takes a trained technician to keep everything in top shape," Jones said.

Students not only repair and adjust brakes; they also perform checks to make sure all hoses, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, and other troublesome areas are performing as they should.

According to labor officials, the job outlook for automotive technicians is good, with a projected growth of about 5 percent through 2024. The median annual wage for automotive service technicians and mechanics was \$37,850 or \$18.20 hourly in May 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

For additional information, contact: Susie Coffman, automotive student advisor at Brookhaven College, 972-860-4189; Ed Hester, co-coordinator of automotive technology at Cedar Valley at 972-860-8197; or Elias Alba, lead faculty member for automotive technology at Eastfield College, 972-860-7053.

## VOTE, continued from Page 8

document that shows the voter's name and an address. Government documents that include a photo must be original and cannot be copies. If a voter meets these requirements and is otherwise eligible to vote, the voter will be able to cast a regular ballot in the election.

Voters with a disability may continue to apply with the county registrar for a permanent exemption to showing approved photo ID

(which now may be expired no more than four years) at the polls. Also, voters who (1) have a consistent religious objections to being photographed or (2) do not present one of the seven forms of approved photo ID because of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may continue apply for a temporary exemption to showing approved photo ID at the polls. In addition,

voters age 65 or older, those with a disability, or those who will be out of the county during both early voting and Election Day may vote by mail. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is Oct. 28.

The General Election is Nov. 8. Early voting runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 4. The last day to register for the election is Oct. 11.

I am currently traveling throughout Texas to talk as part of a non-partisan, bilingual voter education campaign called Vote Texas.

This campaign seeks to ensure all voters in all communities understand when, where, and how to vote. Vote Texas is reaching, among others, voters in urban and rural communities, senior citizens, first time voters, military members, and minority groups.

My team and I are committed to reaching the voters of our great state. For more information regarding voting requirements and voter ID, please visit [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov) or call 1-800-252-VOTE.