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# Soaring costs drive slash in state-prison population

By Nick Chiles  
Urban News Service

As Earth's most prolific jailer, America faces a thorny question: What do you do with millions of inmates when they return home? That challenge is at the heart of many bipartisan prison reforms that are sweeping the nation.

Georgia recently tackled this issue. The staunchly Republican state has become a widely recognized national leader in prison reform, creating a network of programs to help inmates when they are behind bars and after they are released. Georgia's efforts were spurred by a sober realization: If the Peach State didn't curtail its convict population, it would have to spend an additional \$264 million in the next five years just to house inmates. This amounted to more than the state spends each year on any category other than education and health care.

Facing such formidable costs, Georgia — led by Republican Gov. Nathan Deal — began implementing an array of reforms that helped it begin to lower its spending on corrections.

"When you look at the way we have done corrections over the last decade, we've been using a very ex-



pensive brand of interventions, and in spite of the fact that it's more expensive, we were getting worse results," Jay Neal, the former director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry in Georgia, said.

Aside from expenses, another factor has driven reform: Social science data prove that inmates can be rehabilitated and set on the road to redemption with education and drug treatment programs that wind up being much cheaper than repeatedly imprisoning the same offenders.

Consider that a total of 17 states — such as Colorado, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, not exactly hotbeds of liberalism — have, in recent years, directed funding away from prison construction and toward "evidence-based" programs and services that aim to keep ex-offenders from returning to prison. Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder recently said many of these states have seen drops in recidivism rates and prison populations without harming public safety. For the first time since the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics began tracking the numbers in 1978,

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## McKinney plans holiday parade

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## DISD to hold campus open houses

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## Gladys Knight to perform

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## COMMENTARY

## Prisons, Pipelines and the Public Education System

NDG's View

In American society, every citizen has a role. Whether each individual is willingly receptive of their role, or not, their assignment is, undoubtedly, meant to benefit that which American society holds most dear to its heart.

Even more so than our beloved freedom, our society upholds our system of capitalism. After all, the red, white and blue isn't only stained with the

blood of those who sought freedom, but also of those whose property and power were being threatened.

Some may instinctively challenge they have such a role in society because they may have accepted the role they've chosen and settled into. However, one only has to look around them (wherever they may reside in America), to find truth in the role one plays, whether it be consciously or subcon-

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Karen Taylor Bass

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## James T. Smith

By: Jackie Hardy  
NDG Contributing Writer

James T. Smith, owner of JT's Boss Kutz, is building a successful barbershop business one hair cut at a time. In less than a year, Smith has opened three barber shops in different locations within the Metroplex as he shared his impressive professional bio with *North Dallas Gazette* via a recent phone interview.

"In December (2014), I opened my first shop and I started opening the second shop in Irving in February



of this year and then, I opened the third one two weeks ago."

Currently, JT's Boss Kutz has two locations in the Dallas area off of Bonnieview and Duncanville Roads with a third one lo-

cated in Irving on Beltline Road.

According to Smith's professional resume, he graduated from Dallas Barber College in 2012 and he explains to NDG that it was his grandmother who encouraged him to pursue a career as a barber.

"I started out cutting hair as a hobby and it was my grandmother who told me I had talent," shares Smith.

He advised how he began to learn quickly the difference of being a barber and being a business owner. Smith feels one of his legacies will be to help other up and coming barbers learn the business as well as the

art of cutting hair.

"I want to pay it forward as that is what I am trying to do."

One of the ways Smith hopes to pay it forward is by mentoring newly hired barbers from his shop. He currently employs two part time barbers in addition to 12 full time. He feels his success is due in part to his unwillingness to give up and he hopes that is something he can impart to others.

"I tell other people coming into the business learn how, if you can't do it, to do it because sometimes you will have doubts. Self doubts always kick-in when

you feel like you have ideas, but never give up," advises Smith.

According to Smith, he wants to do more in giving back to the community which is why on Nov. 14 in honor of the grand opening of their Duncanville Road location, they will be giving free haircuts to the first 10 customers as well as offering ten dollars discounts on haircuts.

"We want to give back and show we care," added Smith.

Smith also feels keeping his company's mission of creating a customer experience that is welcoming and professional is critical to

his business overall success.

Smith states, "I want JT's Boss Kutz to provide a professional environment that does things in order and provide a barbershop that welcomes everyone."

With the demographics of his most recent barbershop opening reflecting a significant Hispanic population, Smith is committed to broaden his reach of clientele beyond the African American customer base.

For more information on JT's Boss Kutz visit their Facebook page and check out NorthDallasGazette.com for our full story.

## Ulysses "Skip" Bennett

James Meredith, Vivian Malone and James Hood may be the best-known African Americans to integrate Southern colleges, but SMU's Embrey Human Rights Program will introduce four important, but lesser-known, trailblazers at a free public event at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall on the SMU campus.

"Opening Doors: An Evening With the First Integrators of Southern Universities & Colleges" also will host the unveiling of a new database of higher education



integration pioneers developed through research by Embrey Human Rights students.

"We're doing this not only to honor each integrator, but also to show how history has embraced, or not embraced,

what they did, and how their actions hopefully changed those universities for the better," says Embrey Human Rights Assistant Director Brad Klein.

It has taken five years of research for students to populate the database. "It hasn't been easy to put together because of issues ranging from privacy regulations to institutions reluctant to shed light on their dark pasts," says Embrey Human Rights Director Rick Halperin. "But this is an ongoing project we want to see accomplished. It should be available as a piece of history, and we hope its accessibility will encourage the

public to contribute to it."

Among those being honored is Ulysses "Skip" Bennett, of Birmingham-Southern College, Alabama, 1965.

Two years after James Hood and Vivian Malone made national headlines in 1963 as the first two students to integrate the University of Alabama in nearby Tuscaloosa, Bennett made his own mark by enrolling at Birmingham-Southern.

The Birmingham native hoped to attend his hometown college after financial hardship forced him to drop out of Morehead College in Atlanta. Bennett credits his success to "an extraordinary

confidence" stemming from being elected to leadership roles at Morehouse and in high school, when his nonviolent participation in a freedom march landed him in jail for a week.

After admittance to Birmingham-Southern, in large part thanks to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, "I wasn't sure what to expect, but I felt like I could deal with whatever was presented to me," he recalls.

Bennett earned a degree in business administration before getting a MBA from Stanford University. He would go on to own and operate his own financial serv-

ices company in Fort Worth.

Bennett will be joined by Charles Bosley (Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas; 1954), Linda Pondexter Chesterfield (Hendrix College, Arkansas; 1965) and Bertha Bradford Robinson (Louisiana Tech, Ruston; 1965).

For more details about SMU Embrey Human Rights Program news and events, visit <http://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Academics/Institutes-Centers/EmbreyHumanRights>, the program's office at 109 Clements Hall or contact Sherry Aikman at [saikman@smu.edu](mailto:saikman@smu.edu).

## Karen Taylor Bass

(BlackNews.com) -- Real Talk: Many entrepreneurs will fail at launching a business in less than 12 months. According to TheRoot.com, Entrepreneurs starting a business grew 3 times (reported in 2013) the national rate, however, the challenge was staying in business longer than a year. Karen Taylor Bass, CEO of Taylor-Made Media ([www.taylor-mademediapr.com](http://www.taylor-mademediapr.com)) and media veteran for over 25 years wants to change that.

Taking her popular radio show, 30-Day Reset on Blogtalk radio ([www.blogtalkradio.com/30dayreset](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/30dayreset)) primetime and giving entrepreneurs the opportunity to promote their busi-



ness, brand and win.

"Every Tuesday at 8PM, the goal is to make the radio show a must-listen experience while giving entrepreneurs the platform to put their business on full display, secure an interview, create a radio ad while promoting their brand. Prices start at \$35 for 25 minutes of airtime

with a podcast available after the show," says Karen.

The show will be engaging with live guests and experts offering real-time tips to commit and leverage a business in 30-days to impact their brand, business and bottom line. "Most people prepare to launch a business, but they do not create a plan to stay in business and compete. It's my hope that the radio show/podcast will give entrepreneurs a chance to learn about public relations/branding, get their business featured and gain media exposure while growing their brand, business and bottom-line with a strategy in 30 days," says Karen.

The 30-Day Reset radio show will feature celebrity lifestyle expert, Janet Shields Scott with co-hosting duties.

Guest confirmed to date: Angelo Ellerbe (legendary media strategist); Agnes Davis (swimming/wellness expert); Mathew Knowles (famed music manager and author); Portia Lockett (inspirational speaker and author); Dr. Jeff Gardere (psychologist); Sonja Moffett (human resources hiring specialist); and Faye Thompson (best-selling author), Dante Lee (entrepreneur, author and strategic author).

Taylor-Bass' latest book, *30-Day Reset: Brand, Business and Bottom line* is available on multiple platforms, including Amazon.

To learn more about Karen Taylor Bass and the 30-Day Reset show on [blogtalkradio.com/30dayreset](http://blogtalkradio.com/30dayreset).

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# Study: New clean air rules will cost Black jobs

By Quin Hillyer  
Urban News Service

Thousands of black coal miners, truck drivers and factory workers will lose their jobs as new clean air regulations take effect, says Harry Alford, president of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

These new rules, which President Barack Obama announced in August with fanfare, require that carbon dioxide emissions be cut nationwide by more than 25 per cent over the next 10 years.

The regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) “would impose severe and disproportionate economic burdens on poor families, especially minorities,” Alford said at an Oct. 6 hearing of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Sub-

committee on Oversight. “The proposed rule would impose the most harm on residents of seven states with the highest concentrations of blacks and Hispanics.”

Many business leaders say the rules will destroy jobs for two reasons.

First, they allegedly will make it very costly for coal plants to operate, and closing those plants will eliminate jobs.

Second, according to Alford, these executives say that the cost of complying with the rules will drive up energy prices, making it harder for black-owned small businesses to survive.

White House officials deny that the rules will raise energy costs or eliminate jobs while contending that minority neighborhoods would benefit from better

health and cleaner air.

“Climate change hurts those Americans the most, who are the most vulnerable,” Obama said on Aug. 3, when announcing the initiative. “Today, an African-American child is more than twice as likely to be hospitalized from asthma; a Latino child is 40 percent more likely to die from asthma. So if you care about low-income, minority communities, start protecting the air that they breathe, and stop trying to rob them of their health care.”

The national media have noticed this disagreement between black business leaders and the first black president – and made several assumptions that some critics call prejudicial. *Washington Post* reporter Joby Warrick called it “unlikely” and “odd” that a

black business group would join most other industry advocates in opposing the regulations.

In response, Khalil Abdullah, the former executive director of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, wrote a column for *TriceEdneyWire.com* that chided Warrick’s Sept. 28 article for expressing “the absurd and offensive implication ... that it is somehow odd that an African-American business group would support the interests of businesses. The *Washington Post* thus demonstrates a kind of twisted double standard.”

The battle over the regulations is a standard one between industry and environmentalists, Abdullah argued. “The hue of [Al-

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sciously.

With this in mind, what role does our society play in sustaining the pipeline which begins with our public educational system and flushes into the wasteland, known to particular masses, as our American prison system? This isn’t a complicated question to answer. Especially, when numerous studies indicate the quantity of future prisons needed to house our society’s potential criminals is predetermined through results of third grade standardized testing. It’s certainly not a difficult question to answer when you consider zero tolerance policies in our public educational institutions around this country which advocate swiftly punishing students with suspensions, expulsions or even invalid recommendations as candidates for special education. And with the presence of armed guards on public school campuses throughout this county (who won’t hesitate to abuse and humiliate our children in their classroom, and in front of their peers), it’s evident; our

society’s role is very present.

It’s also evident our society plays an unhealthy role in sustaining this pipeline through turning a blind eye to unequal funding of certain schools, in certain communities to help ensure future inmates. When our students aren’t provided with proper tools to educate and prepare them to compete for scholarships or the job market, what options are they then faced with? When our students are only trained to pass a state mandated assessment and deemed qualified to graduate high school, with no real education, what chance do they really have to succeed and provide a better life for their children?

Delving deeper, what role does our community play when these injustices to our children, to our future, are obvious and apparent? Seemingly, our role as a community has diminished deep into the shadow of our unhealthy society. It’s very unfortunate when our society has more impact on our children than our commu-

nity. It’s time for our community to stand up. We must get off the sideline watching a generation being destroyed before our eyes. As a people, we have always stood up for our children. This is a matter of fact by our very existence today.

It’s not acceptable for our society to encase our public educational system into a commodity to be piped into the “New Jim Crow” era, known as America’s mass incarceration system (as brilliantly authored by Michelle Alexander). Our children are not property to be traded. Our children are beautiful, brilliant beings created by the Father. And we’ve been charged as a community, as parents, as teachers, as mentors and as the village to ensure our children are educated, loved and nurtured to become all they’re created to be.

It’s certainly, unacceptable to continue to allow society to sustain this pipeline for the benefit of capitalism, and at the cost of our children’s freedom and our community’s growth.

Our community must stand up for our children by plugging this pipeline.

Changing the culture of our children’s classrooms and campuses, and ensuring they are supplied with the tools they need to succeed is our responsibility. Encouraging our children to read and study, and sharing our knowledge and history throughout the community is our responsibly. Shifting our children’s environment from materialism to that of a caring and nurturing one is our responsibility. Voting for school board members, city council members, judges, congressional representatives, etc. who stand for our children and with our community is our responsibility. This is our community’s role in society.

Let’s not allow society to out shine our community. Let’s get off the sideline and move, as a community, to assure our children that they are most dear to our hearts, and their freedom to shine and grow is the most important role of our community. We have power as a community; Power to plug the pipeline, and send a message to society that our children will not be labeled as property for the sake of America’s capitalistic prison system.



# DCCCD experts say students need to manage time and avoid stress

Going to college can be stressful with classes to attend, reading assignments to complete and homework to finish. Harried students have only 24 hours a day to get everything done. Even the most dedicated students can feel that there just aren't enough hours in a day to succeed. Anyone who is enrolled in the Dallas County Community College District, where the average student is 27 years old, might find that feeling is especially strong because they most likely have jobs and family responsibilities, in addition to school. They often need help learning how to manage their time.

Time management experts at DCCCD say there are ways that students can organize their schedules to maximize the time in their daily lives, especially by planning and prioritizing. Even those students who have obligations outside of school can manage their time efficiently and suc-



ceed. In general, students should follow these guidelines:

- Plan ahead.
- Prioritize.
- Use apps to help manage assignments and deadlines.
- Stay flexible to deal with unexpected events.
- Take breaks to reduce stress.

Mitizi Osby, who teaches time management as part of a business program at Richland College, said, "Time is easily the most important resource." Osby added that, for students, "Effective time management is essential to get the most out of their day and throughout their life

cycle."

Osby said students first need to settle into a manageable routine, and they sometimes need to go through a period of "drifting, where they feel they've taken up too many tasks," which can lead to a sense of failure. Osby said they can use that experience to their advantage. "Sometimes being overwhelmed can work in their favor, and setbacks are not always a bad thing because that's when the individual will be willing to step back, set goals, prioritize and plan better," she explained.

Kimberly Herman, an academic advisor at El Cen-

tro College, also teaches a human development class. She said that she always encourages students to prioritize. "If students know they have to work, they need to determine how many free hours they'll have and plan around that schedule," she said. Herman added that she tells students to take as many classes as they can to maximize their potential.

"Use a calendar, whether electronic or paper, to map out due dates for assignments, and use whatever time is available to work on them," Herman said. "Students can also use mobile apps to help them create assignment due dates."

Osby advised students to be flexible and learn to reprioritize on short notice when unforeseen events interfere with their plans. Additionally, she said they should "reduce their distractions, such as email, social media updates, phone calls and even dealing with friends and family."

Herman said she assesses students so that she can learn where they might have issues. If she sees that they tend to get "sucked into" social media, she advises them to get apps like "StayFocusd," "SelfControl," or "WasteNoTime," which help them manage the time they spend on the internet.

But even students who plan and prioritize efficiently can sometimes face emergencies that will interfere with their college work. Family members can get sick, or worse, which can cut into students' time. "No one has a crystal ball, but by planning better, they may be able to compensate for those unexpected events," Osby said.

Herman advised students to have a "Plan B" for those times when they have last-minute transportation or childcare problems. "Class attendance is crucial, so they should have other options in case those issues

come up," she said. They should also have a "Plan C" for those occasions when they can't avoid missing class. Herman said they should get to know their classmates and ask for their contact information so they can get notes and assignments for the classes they missed.

But students should not feel that they have to work and study 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Osby said just because a student might be young, that doesn't mean he or she doesn't need a break from the daily routine. "Everyone needs to rest and seek a form of relaxation. Without these breaks, students may become more stressed than ever," she said.

Herman said it is important for students to take 30-minute breaks every few hours, but they should set a timer so they don't spend too much time away from the books.

## New recommendations green-light some athletes with heart disease to compete

For the first time, joint recommendations may permit participation in competitive sports for some athletes diagnosed with a specific type of irregular heartbeat and for others who have an implanted medical device that regulates the heart's rhythm.

The joint American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology scientific statement published in both the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation* and the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

The new recommendations apply only to athletes with diagnosed heart disease who participate in competitive level sports directed by a coach (i.e. football, basketball, baseball and others). They do not apply to those who occasionally participate in sports for fun or exercise.

Previous recommendations noted that the risk of sudden cardiac arrest during competitive sports was too high for many athletes with Long QT syndrome, a condition that can result in delayed electrical recovery of the heartbeat, causing fast, chaotic heartbeats that can be life threatening. New medical research indicates, however, that the risk of sudden cardiac arrest is lower than previously thought for these patients.

Similarly, the new research shows a lower risk of sudden cardiac arrest among some competitive athletes with some types of heartbeat disorders treated by an implanted medical device. These devices include pacemakers, which regulate a slow heartbeat, and ICDs, (implantable cardioverter defibrillators), which shock the heart during fast heartbeats to restore

a normal rhythm. Under the new recommendations, some of these athletes now may be able to compete — with their healthcare provider's approval, since every patient is different.

"These recommendations are intended to help healthcare providers and competitive athletes make individualized decisions based on the most current scientific research, the patient's understanding of their risk and the healthcare provider's clinical judgment, but are not intended to establish absolute mandates or to make the general medical (and legal) standard of care applicable to all competitive athletes," said Barry Maron, M.D., co-chair of the writing committee and director of the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Center at the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation.

"It should be noted that

the guidance for patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy has not changed — we still recommend avoiding intense competitive sports for people who have this condition," Maron said.

Patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy have abnormally thick heart muscles, which can cause life-threatening irregular heartbeats, especially with intense physical activity.

When an apparently healthy athlete unexpectedly collapses and dies during an intense sports practice or competition, the cause often is sudden cardiac arrest. Unlike a heart attack, which results from blocked blood flow to the heart, sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and beats abnormally, often due to an un-

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# McKinney adds Christmas Parade for hometown holiday cheer

The premier event of the season, Christmas in the Park, set for Thursday, Dec. 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., is adding a new feature that is sure to please pretty much everyone, says Kayla McFarland, Special Events Coordinator.

"Who doesn't like a parade?" she asked. "We're adding a mini-parade around the City Hall sidewalks to the Christmas in

the Park event and are inviting groups, businesses, civic organizations, individuals, scout troops, bands, floats and anyone who wants to be part of the parade to sign up."

The Christmas Parade will be fully contained in the Murphy Municipal Complex, avoiding vehicular traffic, and maintaining a safe route for pull wagons, bicycles, walkers,

and other non-street legal motorized vehicles.

The parade opens the seasonal event with a 5 p.m. walk off from the open area behind the Fire Department. The quarter-mile route then winds along the sidewalk adjacent to the City pond, then turns along City Hall Court over the bridge toward the large practice fields where it again turns

toward the grassy mall directly in front of the City Hall entrance where booths, exhibits and the Community Christmas Tree will be set up. Mayor Eric Barna will be joined by Santa Claus in the traditional lighting of the tree at the conclusion of the parade.

"We're accepting applications online at [www.murphytx.org](http://www.murphytx.org)," she

said. "There is no charge to enter, and since it's off the street, we welcome golf carts, ATVs, wagons, bikes, marching bands, or anything else that is pre-approved by the organizers." Deadline for entering is 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20.

The theme for the inaugural parade is both simple and classic: "Holiday Traditions."

Prizes will be awarded for Most Creative Mini Float in the Business Category; Most Creative Mini Float in the Church/Civic Category; and Most Creative Mini Float in the Band/School Category.

Entries must be in place no later than 4:15 p.m. on the day of the parade. Questions can be sent via email to [events@murphytx.org](mailto:events@murphytx.org).

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the state and federal prison populations both declined in 2014. The total decrease was by more than 15,000 inmates, the second-biggest annual reduction on record, bringing the nation's prison population to its lowest level since 2005.

"We just know so much more now than we did 20, 30 years ago," said Neal, noting that Georgia has begun to see a small drop in its recidivism rate. "So we're making decisions based on a lot more information and a lot more knowledge of the individual — and having a better feel for what kind of outcomes we can expect, based on data and research, instead of just based on the gut feelings, which is unfortunately what a lot of policy was based on, decades ago."

"As most major reformers point out, more than 95 percent of America's incarcerated eventually return to their communities — 600,000 every year. So what happens if there are no jobs or housing awaiting their return? They likely will commit more crime. For that reason, before he stepped down, Holder directed each of the 93 U.S. Attorneys to designate a prevention and reentry coordinator in his or her district.

With an eye toward helping ex-offenders secure employment, 19 states recently have adopted a policy known as "ban the box" — prohibiting employers from asking job applicants whether they

ever have been convicted of crimes. Those states include California (2010), Colorado (2012) and Delaware (2014), and this year saw the addition of Georgia, New York, Ohio and Virginia.

Reformers in Georgia and elsewhere also have set their sights on rolling back laws barring ex-cons from obtaining licenses in such fields as lawn care, massage therapy, barbering and auto repair.

In designing Georgia's plan, widely praised for its comprehensiveness, Neal said the state borrowed heavily from existing programs in Texas and Michigan.

At the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)'s annual conference last July, one of the largest gatherings of conservative lawmakers, two separate sessions focused on helping states implement cheaper alternatives to incarceration. This illustrates just how far some Republicans have shifted from their traditionally tough-on-crime posture.

Nick Wachinski — CEO of Lexington National Insurance Corporation, which underwrites bail bonds — looked across a San Diego hotel ballroom packed with at least 100 conservative state legislators from around the country. When he asked ALEC's guests how many of them were dealing with jail overcrowding, nearly all of them raised their hands.

"If we continue on the

path we're on now, the federal government will run out of money to afford the Bureau of Prisons in 2017," Wachinski said.

Aryeh Lightstone, senior vice president for Copia, a New York-based digital education company, explained to the legislators that their state-level inmates desperately need schooling if they are going to avoid crime and thrive in the real world.

"According to the Department of Justice, over 70 percent of federal inmates can't read above the fourth-grade level," Lightstone said. "We need to have safety nets built in before it's too late."

"In early October, the Justice Department announced it was preparing to release about 6,000 inmates to ease overcrowding and roll back the stringent penalties given to nonviolent drug dealers in the 1980s and 1990s. This will be one of the largest discharges of federal inmates in American history.

"Our nation is being robbed of men and women who could be workers and taxpayers, could be more actively involved in their children's lives, could be role models, could be community leaders, and right now they're locked up for a non-violent offense," President Barack Obama said about the release action.

Obama even traveled to Oklahoma to visit a federal prison last summer — a presidential first. In a Nov. 2 visit to Newark, New Jersey, Obama noted that one out of every three working-age Americans has some sort of criminal record. This makes it tough for them to find

work. He toured and hailed Integrity House, a Newark program that helps former inmates.

But ex-offenders have little chance of succeeding unless the local communities are open to the idea of absorbing them — giving them jobs, allowing them to rent apartments and accepting them without fear and discrimination.

About 20,000 men and women enter Georgia's

prison system every year, and about that many leave it. Where will they go?

"The majority come right back to the community where they grew up, where they got in trouble, the community that ended up leading them into the criminal justice system," Neal said. "When we talk to these communities, the question we ask is: What do you want when they come back to your community? Do you

want them to be in prison without the proper program and the proper support and resources available? Or do you want us to do everything we can, to use the best of our abilities and resources to prepare them to come back? If we reduce crimes committed, we reduce the victims of crime and ultimately we make the community a better place by bringing better citizens back home."



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# Runners of all ages cross finish line of 16th annual STEMS Fun Run

BROWNSVILLE, — Ten-year-old David Perez was among 460 school children, teenagers and adults participating in the 16th annual STEMS Fun Run, Saturday, Nov. 7, on the The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Brownsville Campus.

Cheered on by his 6-year-old brother, Santiago, and his mom and dad, Claudia and David, David finished first in the one-mile category for boys ages 10-13.

"I feel great. I'm going to keep on running," said David, who also is a competitive swimmer.

A fifth-grader at IDEA Brownsville, he practices running with Coach Alejandro Mora.

"I'm proud of David and



Actor Efrén Ramírez (#5065) ran with a group of children in the UTRGV 16th annual STEMS Fun Run on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015, in Brownsville. Ramírez is best known for his role as Pedro Sanchez in the 2004 movie "Napoleon Dynamite." (UTRGV Photo by Paul Chouy)

all our students. We had about 35 running today," Mora said. "We es-

tablish a healthy environment at IDEA Brownsville, keeping the students en-

gaged in exercise at school and out in the community at events such as this."

One of the adults who took home a trophy was Hollywood actor Efrén Ramírez, in town to promote his new movie, "Endgame." Filmed in Brownsville with local extras, the movie tells the story of Brownsville school children winning the Texas State Chess Championship for a number of consecutive years.

"I love to be in Brownsville and do anything I can for the community. What a great chance to be here to join the folks in this run," said Ramírez, who plays the role of Mr. Alvarado, the school chess coach. "I try to stay in shape by running in Los

Angeles, and wherever I go around the world, I always pack my running shoes."

The STEMS Fun Run is a fundraiser for the South Texas Engineering, Math and Science STEMS Mentor Club, and is one of the Rio Grande Valley Science and Arts Festival (RiSA) activities.

The STEMS Mentor Club provides opportunities for college students to be involved with K-12 students and communities. UTRGV students volunteer hundreds of hours every year to support all events, field experiences and activities related to the STEMS program.

## New research shows academic progress slowed when mixing ages in Head Start

AUSTIN — Four-year-olds in the nation's largest preschool program fare worse with 3-year-olds in their classrooms, according to new research that shows a common practice in most Head Start programs may stunt children's learning.

Three-fourths of Head Start classes teach 3- and 4-year-old children together, but a new study, led by re-

searchers at The University of Texas at Austin, found that older children make smaller academic gains on average when taught with younger preschoolers. In the classrooms where the two age groups were evenly split, 4-year-olds in the study were an average of nearly five months of academic development behind their 4-year-old peers who

were in classrooms without 3-year-olds.

The effect is strong enough, researchers say, to suggest that mixed-age classrooms are preventing some children from starting kindergarten ready to learn math and reading.

"We may be selling Head Start children short if we put 3- and 4-year-old children together," said Eliza-

beth Gershoff, an associate professor of human development and family sciences. "We've known for a couple of years that 4-year-olds don't perform as well in Head Start as other chil-

See AGES, Page 16

## Open house events offer information about Public School Choice options

The Dallas Independent School District is creating new Transformation Schools that offer specialized academic programming, similar to Magnet Schools. Unlike Magnet Schools, Transformation Schools do not have any academic entry requirements — they are open enrollment for all students across the entire district, regardless of academic ability. Transportation will be provided.

Dallas ISD employees, parents and the community at large can get answers to these questions and take a close-up look at Dallas ISD Transformation Schools at a series of

open house events. The dates and times are listed below. All meetings will have both English and Spanish options available.

Next year, the district will launch a new all-girls STEAM school. Interest in the school is already picking up, and is part of the slate of open house events offered.

**Solar Preparatory School for Girls at James B. Bonham | 2617 N. Henderson Ave.**

(Accepting applications for new Kindergarten, first and second grade for August 2016)

Open house dates:

• 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec.

8, 2015

• 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016

• 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016

**Eduardo Mata Elementary, A Montessori campus**

See CHOICE, Page 7

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# Plano makes Top 10 retirement list

As we lead longer, healthier lives, the age 65-and-older population is projected to double to 85 million by 2050.

Getting to retirement is the culmination of many decisions and, ideally, a long-standing series of life and financial plans.

One of the key questions, of course, is where should you live when you

retire?

With this in mind, Livability.com has named Plano one of the Top 10 Best Places to Retire, 2015.

Plano offers access to affordable and quality health care, a practical cost of living, retiree-friendly businesses and services, as well as several amenities to help keep res-

idents active.

Our editors started by examining our own survey research to determine which criteria are most important to this generation: exemplary and affordable health-care services, presence of other seniors, ways to become or stay involved in the community, low crime rates, moderate climates and access to golf

courses and other outdoor amenities.

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Medicare, Esri, NOAA, Walk Score, the EPA and other sources, we crunched the numbers to derive our shortlist. Then our editors selected the Top 10 Best Places to Re-

See RETIRE, Page 8

## HEART, continued from Page 4

derlying congenital, genetic or acquired cardiac condition.

"The ultimate incentive is to prevent sudden cardiac death in the young, although it is also important not to unfairly or unnecessarily remove individuals from a healthy athletic lifestyle," said Douglas P. Zipes, M.D., co-chair of the statement writing group and distinguished professor at Indiana University School of Medicine, Krannert Institute of Cardiology in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The scientific statement also provides recommendations for evaluating other congenital, genetic and acquired cardiac conditions that could increase the risk of sudden cardiac arrest among competitive athletes, as well as emphasizing the importance of avoiding performance-enhancing drugs which also increase risk. The statement notes it is also critical for competitive athletes and their coaches to learn how to use an emergency medical device, or AED (automated external defibrillator), which can restore a normal heartbeat in a person who has experienced a cardiac arrest.

"The panel recognizes and strongly supports the well-documented health benefits of exercise, with regular physical activities encouraged for those individuals who have been removed from organized competitive athletics," Zipes said.

To calculate the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, an expert panel at the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology analyzed detailed medical reports on competitive athletes with different types of heart disease. In addition to irregular heartbeat, these diseases include heart-valve damage, high blood pressure, and narrowing of the blood vessels, among many others.

Some of these diseases are present at birth, while others develop later in life.

The organizations have not changed their screening recommendations, and continue to recommend that healthcare professionals use a checklist of 14 key elements for screening young people, including athletes, age 12-25, for congenital and genetic heart disease.

If any of the elements are positive, further testing may be needed, but initial

screening using electrocardiograms (ECGs) to detect underlying genetic and congenital heart disease in this age group prior to the checklist has not been shown to save lives and is not recommended by either the American Heart Association or the American College of Cardiology.

Co-authors and disclosures are listed on the individual manuscripts that comprise the scientific statement.



## CHOICE, continued from Page 6

**7420 La Vista Dr.**  
(Accepting applications for new Pre-K3, Pre-K4, and Kindergarten for August 2016)

Open house dates:  
• 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015

• 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016

• 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016

**D.A. Hulcy STEAM Middle School | 9339 S. Polk St.**

(Accepting applications for new sixth-graders for August 2016)

Open house dates:  
• 6 to 7 p.m. Monday,

Nov. 23, 2015

• 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016

**Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship Academy | 4800 Ross Ave.**

(Accepting application for new ninth-graders for August 2016)

Open house dates:  
• 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015

• 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016

For more information about Dallas ISD Choice Schools, email [choice@dallasisd.org](mailto:choice@dallasisd.org). Visit [www.dallasisd.org/choice](http://www.dallasisd.org/choice) for more info.



Dallas ISD offers specialized education programs unique to each child under its Public School Choice umbrella. At upcoming open house events, students and parents can learn more on each school's focus area. (Photo Courtesy: Dallas ISD)

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## GARLAND

### Native American History at Books and Beyond

Kids ages 6-12 may celebrate Native American History Month at the Garland library's Books and Beyond event, scheduled at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Central Library, 625 Austin St. Books and Beyond consists of book discussions and activities related to monthly themes. This month, kids will learn about Native American history, then make totem poles, dream catchers, rain sticks, and learn the art of weaving. The event is free and no registration is required. 972-205-2516.

## IRVING

### Beaujolais & Beyond Wine Festival

Lumière, Moteur, Action! You're invited to experience a unique evening

of wine, food and entertainment at the 32nd Annual Beaujolais & Beyond Wine Festival themed Sip, Savor and Shine in Cannes inspired by the renowned yearly French film festival at the Irving Convention Center by The French-American Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m. \$65, info@faccdallas.com..

## PLANO

### Upcoming workshops for Destination College

Destination College's next workshop, "The Top 10 Things Colleges Want in an Applicant," will examine the criteria colleges look at when deciding on an applicant and will offer ways to highlight your best attributes.

Scheduled from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17 at the Spring Creek Campus Living Legends Confer-

ence Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano, the workshop will provide an inside look at the 10 most important components students need to demonstrate in order to compete with other college applicants and explain the role each plays in a college's admission decision. Attendees will also learn how to apply academic interests, unique talents and personal passions in ways that build depth as an individual.

The seminar is free and open to the public, but registration is required. [www.collin.edu/destinationcollege](http://www.collin.edu/destinationcollege)

## RICHARDSON

### Women in Leadership at Chamber of Commerce

Women in Leadership at the Richardson Chamber

of Commerce Luncheon Charity Wallace, Senior Advisor, Global Women's Initiatives, George W. Bush Presidential Center will share what they are doing to empower and equip women to become effective leaders globally.

## SOUTH DALLAS

### 15th annual South Dallas Dance Festival

The South Dallas Cultural Center presents "EVERLAST" the 15th Annual South Dallas Dance Festival on November 13-15. Arga Nova Dance will collaborate with the best dance companies in the DFW area to choreograph an everlasting weekend for dance lovers. There will be 3 days of solo and group performances, a free film screening, an industry roundtable and a master dance class. Tickets are \$10.00 at the SDCC box office.

## RETIRE, continued from Page 7

tire. Using the data as a guide, we chose cities and towns with a range of populations, climates and locales.

"As the aging population grows and diversifies, so will their ideas of ideal retirement," says Livability.com Editor Matt Carmichael. "We wanted our list of Best Places to Retire to reflect the breadth of options today's active seniors are considering."

Plano retirees enjoy a low crime rate, outdoor amenities, cultural activities and a high percentage of people age 60 and over. The city and state tax laws are highly favorable to retirees, and cost of living expenses are low compared to many other places.

Residents of all ages

enjoy the high energy level found in Plano, which extends from the downtown area into surrounding neighborhoods and retirement communities.

It's an easy transition from natural wonderlands like Arbor Hills Nature Reserve to trendy shopping centers such as Collin Creek Mall and The Shops at Willow Bend.

### Top 10 Best Places to Retire, 2015

1. Santa Barbara, CA
2. Sarasota, FL
3. Plano, TX
4. Tacoma, WA
5. Carson City, NV
6. Hillsboro, OR
7. Lincoln, NE
8. Charlottesville, VA
9. Rapid City, SD
10. Scottsdale, AZ



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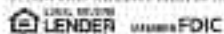
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## Gladys Knight to play Dallas on Nov. 15

Get ready for an extra soulful double bill as Gladys Knight and The O'Jays team up for a series of special performances. They will be in Dallas on Nov. 15 at Verizon Theater.

Each act has shaped the musical landscape of Soul and RnB in their own right; Knight has an astounding seven Grammys to her name while Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The O'Jays hit the top of the charts with the 1973 smash hit 'Love Train'.

The trio were at the forefront of the Philly Soul Scene of the early 70's and have more Top Twenty Singles and Albums than you can count on two hands.

After all these years, Eddie, Walter and Eric still have charm in spades and the voices to match! Speaking of still got it... At 70 years old, Ms Knight can still clear the rafters with her vocal chops. Some things just get better with age, and the Empress of Soul is no exception.



Gladys Knight and the O'Jays are scheduled to play the Verizon Theater on Nov. 15. (Photo Margaret Napler / Flickr)

## Rebirth Brass Band performs Saturday at the Granada

Whether seen on HBO's Treme or at their legendary Tuesday night gig at The Maple Leaf, Grammy-winning Rebirth Brass Band is a true New Orleans institution.

They will be performing this Saturday night at the Granada along with Naughty Professor. The show is open to ages 14 and up with tickets running between \$17 and \$32.

Formed in 1983 by the Frazier brothers, the band has evolved from playing the streets of the French Quarter to playing festivals and stages all over the



world. While committed to upholding the tradition of brass bands, they have also extended themselves into the realms of funk and hip-hop to create their signature sound. "Rebirth can be pre-

cise whenever it wants to," says The New York Times, "but it's more like a party than a machine. It's a working model of the New Orleans musical ethos: as long as everybody knows what

they're doing, anyone can cut loose." In the wake of the sometimes-stringent competition among New Orleans brass bands, Rebirth is the undisputed

See REBIRTH, Page 10

## DeSoto preps for 43rd annual Parade of Lights

On Saturday, Dec. 5, at the DeSoto Town Center, the 43rd annual Hometown Parade of Lights will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Parade line up begins at 3:30 p.m. in the 1700 block of Kestral Avenue. All participants (walkers, military, bands, cheerleaders, private clubs, floats, autos and trailers) enter the parade staging area and must be in place no later than 5 p.m.

All residents are encouraged to mark their calendars for the yearly event, which will feature Texas Southern Ocean of Soul Marching Band, CC

Marching Machine, Trinity Drumline, Grand Marshall Coach Freddie L. James and more.

Applications are available and online now at [www.desototexas.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7467](http://www.desototexas.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7467), the deadline for entrants to the parade is Nov. 13. For more information call (972) 230-9651. All entries should have lights, and applicants are encouraged to read the rest of the application carefully.

Time: 5:30 p.m.

For any other questions or concerns, call Carolyn Campbell at DeSoto Parks & Recreation 972.230-9651 for information.

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## Filmmaker Lee Daniels Draws a Crowd at Middleburg Festival

By Donna M. Owens  
Special to the NNPA  
News Wire from the AFRO

On a crisp fall day at Salamander Resort and Spa, several dozen people were seated in the well-appointed library, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Academy Award-nominated director, Lee Daniels.

The acclaimed director of such hit films as "Lee Daniels' The Butler," "Precious" "Monster's Ball" and now co-creator of the blockbuster FOX television series, "Empire," was among the Hollywood celebs and power brokers in attendance Oct. 22-25 at the 3rd annual Middleburg Film Festival.

The four-day event welcomed film aficionados from all over the country and beyond, who sampled a well-



Lee Daniels prepares to talk to the audience at the Middleburg Film Festival. (Middleburg Film Festival)

curated selection of narrative and documentary films. The movies, which included possible Oscar contenders, festival favorites, foreign films, regional premieres, and both narratives and documentaries, were screened in an intimate theatre environment, complemented by "in-

sider" chats with renowned actors and filmmakers.

Celebrity guests ranged from supermodel Beverly Johnson, to actress Meg Ryan, who made her directorial debut.

Held in the historic town of Middleburg, Virginia, a wealthy enclave of estates, horse farms and wineries about an hour's drive outside of Washington, D.C.—festival attendees were able to experience the beautiful natural landscape, food, and wine.

Daniels is a longtime supporter of the festival, and his appearance at the event was akin to that of a rock star. Adoring fans (many of them Black women) showered him with affection and applauded enthusiastically when he arrived, asked to take selfies, and he gra-

ciously obliged.

"My contribution is [based on] my life," said Daniels, who said his work was often rooted in "really painful" experiences, including being a gay man who once struggled for acceptance, seeing multiple friends die of HIV/AIDS, and drug addiction. "With anything I do, I find myself giving my soul to it."

In 2013 he released the critically acclaimed box office smash "Lee Daniels' The Butler," an epic drama that tells the story of Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker), a Black butler who served at the White House during seven presidential administrations between 1957 and 1986.

Meantime, "Empire," which debuted in 2015 tells the story of a Black family dynasty set against the back-

drop of the record industry and hip-hop. Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson star, with Timbaland producing the show's original music.

Its first season finale was the highest rated debut season finale for a scripted program since 2005. Still, Lee told the crowd that fame and accolades didn't always translate into happiness for him.

Today, however, Daniels is sober. He's a proud father of two (raising the children of his brother who is incarcerated) and devoted to their family unit. "I gotta [keep] my kids on track, making sure they're okay," noting that his son is a college student in D.C., and his daughter attends a school in Paris. "I live for them, everything I do is for them."

## REBIRTH,

continued from Page 9

leader of the pack, and they show no signs of slowing down.

Following the Grammy-winning Rebirth of New Orleans, Rebirth Brass Band is at it again with Move Your Body, an infectious, groove-laden collection of hip-shakers sure to saturate the dance floor.

Rollicking originals like "Who's Rockin, Who's Rollin'?" and "Take 'Em to the Moon" reaffirm the band's position as head of the brass throne while the rastaesque "On My Way" and leave-nothing-to-the-imagination lyrics of "HBNS" showcase the unit's talent for penning unabashed party starters.



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ford's] skin,"he wrote "has nothing to do"with whether his position –and those of other business leaders and elected officials, both black and white – is somehow suspect or odd.

Under questioning before the House science committee in July, EPA Chief Administrator Gina McCarthy acknowledged that the EPA's own analysis shows that the new rules would reduce world average-temperature growth by less than two one-hundredths of a degree Fahrenheit by 2050. Two one-hundredths of a

Alford testified that the Clean Power Plan's benefits don't match the program's



costs. He cited a study sponsored by the National Black Chamber of Commerce that found that these rules would increase black poverty by 23 percent and Hispanic poverty by 26 per-

Blacks and Hispanics will

Electricity might fail when EPA rules take effect, and long-time coal-fired plants are taken offline, according to the Southwest

Alford also questioned the president's claim (from his Aug. 3 announcement) that climate change and ozone levels disproportionately affect minority communities, and that asthma and ozone levels rise and

“The same characters who are going to be criticizing this plan were saying [in prior years], this is going to kill jobs, this is going to destroy businesses, this is going to hurt low-income people, it’s going to be wildly expensive. And each time, they were wrong. ... They underestimate American business and American ingenuity.”

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# School truancy needs a career and technical solution

A sobering report released by the Children's Law Center and D.C. Lawyers for Youth says District of Columbia high schools are struggling with a chronic truancy problem that at any given time involves more than half of their enrollment. The report is critical of anti-truancy measures that increase administrative and legal interventions without addressing the underlying cause.

Many factors contribute to poor school attendance, particularly for low-income and disadvantaged youth. The root cause is lack of engagement in learning that is relevant to everyday life, gives students a sense of accomplishment, and connects them to employment.

District of Columbia schools are not alone. Research shows more than 1 in 4 African American youth in the U.S., ages 16 to 24, have little or no connection to school and work experiences as they enter adulthood.

A decade ago, the non-

profit District of Columbia Students Construction Trades Foundation founded the Academy of Construction and Design at one of Washington, D.C.'s oldest public high schools. Our goal was to increase the skills and readiness of individuals seeking jobs in the

region's booming construction industry.

We met extensively with school, industry and community leaders to address diverse needs and concerns. After listening intently to a description of our proposed

See SCHOOL, Page 13

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## Oak Cliff Chamber's 4th annual Transportation Summit

The Transportation Committee of the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce will host its fourth annual Transportation Summit on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Hitt Auditorium of Methodist Dallas Medical Center, located at 1441 N. Bishop Ave. The Chamber will bring together transportation industry executives, regional transit agencies and leaders in the community to address the future of transportation projects serving the Dallas-Fort Worth area during a Transportation Summit en-

titled "Our Transportation Future."

Summit panelists will focus on informing the business community and commuting public with a strategic vision and concrete action plans of ongoing transit initiatives. Among those slated to speak: Gary Thomas, president of Dallas Area Rapid Transit, will focus on DART's 2040 Transit System Plan that explores opportunities for capital projects and operating improvements through the year 2040; Bill Meadows, chair-

man of the North Texas High Speed Rail Commission, will give an update on the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Connection; Jared White, bicycle transportation manager at City of Dallas, will discuss the City's Bikeway System Plan that focuses on expanding on-street bicycle routes and trails; and State Representative Yvonne Davis will give an update on the State's transportation initiatives.

"The Summit is offered to give the public an opportunity to learn more about

transportation-related projects in the Oak Cliff and Dallas region," said transportation chair, Anselmo Montemayor.

The event is open to the public, developers, engineering firms and those interested in transportation projects. Registration is \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members and includes a full continental breakfast. For more information and to register, visit [www.transportation.oakcliffchamber.org](http://www.transportation.oakcliffchamber.org) or call 214-943-4567 ext. 17.

## SCHOOL, continued from Page 12

technical academy in an early meeting with the D.C. Board of Education, a student representative to the board remarked that more students would stay in school and avoid dropping out if they were able to participate in the hands-on math, carpentry, electrical, blueprint reading, and science courses we planned to offer.

Over the ensuing decade, outcomes for students in our career and technical education (CTE) classes would prove him right. The Academy of Construction and Design has maintained a greater than 90 percent graduation rate. CTE pathways combine academic and technical studies to encourage students to stay in school and graduate with skills and credentials that open doors to employment, further education and viable careers.

Skilled trades CTE changes the way students see themselves and their future prospects. However, D.C. and other urban school districts continue to overlook or eliminate these programs entirely. Anyone who dismisses the need for accredited instruction in carpentry, electrical and other building trades should remember that heavy snow, arctic temperatures and high winds shut down much of the country last winter causing broken pipes, col-

lapsed roofs and downed power lines.

Odds are, if this happened to your home or business, you called a professional for help. Without education and training, individuals with those essential skills and capabilities would be harder to find.

To begin to understand why skilled trades education has been pushed aside, we can look back to debates between the nineteenth-century leaders, W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington. Washington advocated training students in craft, industrial and farming skills, while Dubois focused on college-educated African Americans whom he called the "Talented Tenth."

This planted the seed of thought that college education holds much more value and commands greater respect than vocational education. This misconception lingers today, even as educators struggle to reduce truancy, improve student performance, and close the achievement gap for black and Latino students.

In Washington, the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation just opened its newly renovated and constructed training facility at IDEA Public Charter School, one of the city's longest operating and top performing high schools. These classrooms and train-

ing labs are the new home of the Academy of Construction and Design during school hours and the DC Apprenticeship Academy, which offers evening classes for apprentice trainees employed by contractors in the District of Columbia.

Our science, technology, engineering, design arts and math partnership with IDEA is a replicable model for educating and employ-

ing the next generation of skilled trades professionals who will keep technology-smart homes and buildings from being cold, dark and flooded. Something to think about!

Carol Randolph is chief operating officer for the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation and co-founder of the Academy of Construction and Design in Washington, DC.

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- 11) Prepare year-end docs for CPA

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**November 15, Noon Time**  
How do you study the Bible? Join us for a new one hour only Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson will teach a series on "How to Study the Bible God's way." Learn how to: Know Christ and make Him known; help know and grow in God's word; give clarity and direction; help worship and praise God; help know and use God's word to lead others to Christ; and encourages fellowship and build unity within the church. You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

**November 18, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. These are cool Topics in Winter months. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word.

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**November 18, 7 p.m.**  
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Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor  
4215 North Greenview Dr.  
Irving, TX 75062  
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**CHRIST COMMUNITY  
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**November 15, 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.

**November 18, 7 p.m.**  
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  
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972-991-0200  
Richardson, TX 75081  
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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ALLEN  
"The Ship"**

**November 15, 8 a.m.**  
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**November 18**  
You're invited to 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.

**November 22, 7 p.m.**  
Calling all youth! Every 4th Sunday, we host Hype Sunday Worship at our Admin-

istration Building, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen, TX 75013. Don't be guilty of missing out on the wonderful and exciting way we worship God and thank Him for His blessings.

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**November 15, 10 a.m.**  
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**November 18, 7 p.m.**  
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**November 15, 9:45 a.m.**  
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**November 16, 9 p.m.**  
Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

**November 18, at 6:30 p.m.**  
Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Worship come and hear what God has to say to us.

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November 18, 7 p.m.  
Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown  
Senior Pastor  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
214-341-6459  
www.nmzb.org

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IN PLANO**

**November 15, at 8 a.m. And/or 11 a.m.**  
Join us as we praise and worship God in our worship services. You will be blessed.

**November 18, 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; and, it's all for His glory and His honor.

**December 13, 1:30 p.m.**  
Mark your calendar for our Annual Christmas Banquet being held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Frisco, TX. Call the church for details.

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November 15, 7:30

**and/or 11:30 a.m.**  
You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

**November 16, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

**November 26, 10 a.m.**  
Join us as we give thanks to God in our Thanksgiving Services; and bring someone with you. You will be blessed.

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# The Holy Spirit



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"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26 (KJV)

The story is told of a man who was driving down the interstate feeling discouraged from an appointment that he had just had.

A former employee's company was seeking to displace him and his company, as their source for their services.

It had been one of many difficult events during those months. As he was driving, some words popped into his mind, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper."

He could not tell you where those words came

from other than he knew the Holy Spirit was speaking them to him; he knew that they were in the Bible. He knew also that they were in the Old Testament.

When he returned to his office that day, he searched for the key words in his concordance and found the verse.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would remind us of the things He desires us to know. There are times in our lives when the Holy Spirit speaks into our spirit words designed to encourage us or to give us what we need at the moment.

That is just one of the roles of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The more you know God's Word, the more often you will recall verses and the Holy Spirit

will bring to mind for a given situation.

Study God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things He desires you to know.

When you study God's word, you know that perception is not reality. Job 4:10 states, "The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions, are broken."

In the advertising business it is often said that, "perception is reality" for the person who views our advertising message.

It does not matter whether the audience believes the message to be true, only that they perceive it to be true. Their actions will be the same whether they believe it or only perceive it.

The enemy of our souls is

very good at this game. He may bring on us what we perceive to be true when it is a lie. It may appear that there is no way around a situation.

He may bring great fear on us. When we buy into his lie, we believe only what we have chosen to perceive to be true. It usually has no basis of truth.

Such was the case when Peter looked on the waters during a night's boat journey with the other disciples. At first glance, he and the disciples screamed with fear, thinking that what they saw was a ghost. It was actually Jesus.

Satan's name means "ac-

cuser." He travels to and fro to accuse the brethren. He brings an impressive front to all he does, yet behind that front is a weak, toothless lion with a destination that has already been prepared in the great abyss.

He knows his destination, but he wants to bring as many with him as possible; so he often has a big roar, but little bite.

The next time some event comes into your life that creates fear and trembling, first determine the source. Look past the emotions and evaluate the situation in light of God's Word. Perception is not always reality.



Bishop/Pastor Courtney and Mrs. Michelle Burnett from Kingston, Jamaica at the Freeman's Memorial Cemetery in Dallas on Highway 75 and Lemon Avenue just north of Downtown Dallas, Texas.



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Iglesia de Cristo Services .....5:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 pm

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Isiah Joshua, Jr. Pastor



# NDG Book Review: *The Little Kids Table* is a literary feast

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Grandma is the best cook ever!

She's second only to Mom, who makes your favorite foods every day. Oh, what about Dad's special mashed potatoes, and you really love Auntie's sprinkle cookies! You'll get to taste every one of those things soon – but where will you sit while you're eating? Find out in "The Little Kids' Table" by Mary Ann McCabe Riehle, illustrated by Mary Reaves Uhles.

It's always fun visiting Grandma, especially at the holidays. That's when you get to sit at a special place for kids only.

Everything at the grown-ups' table is nice. They have sparkly silverware, shiny



glasses, and pretty dishes. The grown-ups' table has washable napkins to put on your lap, a table cloth, and even a vase of flowers.

It's not like that at the little kids' table. Where you all sit, it's loud and messy. Your brother may be crying. Someone might be trying to hang spoons off her nose (or teaching somebody else how to do it), while your twin cousins play a joke on

another kid. There's always a grown-up to fix your plate, to give you another helping of foods you like, or to try to make you taste something that's "totally icky." It's easy to be goofy at the little kids' table.

And when you do, that's about the time when Mom gets annoyed and makes you "Stop it now, please!" You should behave at the little kids' table – more or less. You should eat what's on your plate – more or less. And you should always pay attention to what the grown-ups say – more than not!

Grandpa probably wishes he was sitting next to you, poking his finger in your pumpkin pie. Uncle wishes he could hang spoons from his face. Mom would surely

laugh until milk came out of her nose if she was at the little kids' table. Grandma probably hates shiny glasses because paper cups are more fun. Truth is, all the grown-ups wish they were you because everybody knows which table is the best!

Grumble, grumble, grumble. Is that what you hear every holiday when the kids are sent to a satellite seat? Well, they'll never feel de-

prived again, after you've read aloud "The Little Kids' Table."

Through a fun rhyme that'll make your child look forward to this year's holiday, author Mary Ann McCabe Riehle turns the banished feeling around to make it fun to sit at a table away from the adults. Even the family dog gets involved, and the chaos that follows will make kids giggle. It helps a lot that illustrator Mary Reaves Uhles

adds silly details in her drawings – details that, once you start looking for them, can make this book seem fresh no matter how many times you'll be asked to read it aloud.

For 5-to-8-year-olds, this is a great holiday book and a nice reminder that sitting away from the adults is something even the adults want. And if that sounds tasty, then "The Little Kids' Table" will be a feast for you both.

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dren, and this may be a big reason why."

The study, which used data from more than 2,800 children nationwide in nearly 500 Head Start classrooms, is due to be published in the journal Psychological Science.

Head Start is the nation's largest federal preschool program, and more than 30 million low-income children, ages 3 to 5, have participated in it during the past 50 years. Past research on Head Start has found that the preschool program has modest effects on children's academic and social skills, with effects smallest for 4-year-olds.

"Mixed-age classrooms may be one reason that older children don't seem to benefit as much from Head Start as younger children," said Arya Ansari, lead author of the study and a graduate student in Gershoff's lab.

Gershoff and her team used 2009 data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' national Family and Child Experiences Survey. The survey assessed a representative group of children in Head Start in the fall of

2009 and the spring of 2010, looking at their skills in language and literary, math and social and behavioral measures.

By comparing the performance of children in classes with a greater proportion of 3-year-olds to those with few or no 3-year-olds, the researchers found math and literacy/language differences in the 4-year-old cohort. Even having only a few younger students in the classroom resulted in lower levels of cognitive improvement: for example, with 20 percent of the class made up of 3-year-olds, 4-year-old students experienced about two months of lost academic progress. The impact was greater when the concentration of younger children was higher.

Behavioral skills were not affected by mixed-age classrooms for either age group.

"While there has been some enthusiasm for mixed-age classrooms, our results suggest there may be a significant downside for older children and no real benefit for the younger children," said Kelly Purtell, a former postdoctoral re-

searcher with Gershoff and now an assistant professor at The Ohio State University.

Researchers don't know for sure why mixing age groups led to negative effects, but Gershoff says one possibility is that in mixed-age classes, teachers tailor their lessons to be developmentally appropriate for younger children. Compared with 4-year-olds, 3-year-old children know about half as many words, on average, and they have much less familiarity with numbers, letters, more complex sentence construction and concepts of space and time.

Given limited resources and imbalances in enrollment, some Head Start classrooms may not be able to have two separate classrooms for the different age groups, Gershoff notes. Still, the study suggests teachers should explore other ways of helping older preschoolers remain challenged and engaged.

"Teachers can provide 4-year-olds appropriate curriculum even in the same classroom, breaking the children into different groups with their own activities," she said.

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