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## Luminant Academy and Tyler Junior College provide students with a 'career-test drive'

By Jackie Hardy  
NDG Contributing Writer

Tyler Junior College (TJC) partnered with Luminant, a power generation company and subsidiary of Energy Future Holding Corporation, to create Luminant Academy in 2008 and a Power Track program in 2011. Luminant Academy provides technical, craft skills, lean manufacturing, and leadership training for Luminant's plant and mine employees.

"Students will learn the technical and safety aspects of plant operations, the responsibilities of plant operators, and the mechanical and chemical technology needed for working in related industrial operations," describes Bryan Baker, Department Chair Industrial Trade/Professional Welding at TJC, in a written response to North Dallas Gazette.

With its 1.7 million dollar investment, the company constructed Luminant Academy, a two-story, 24,000-square-foot training facility on TJC's West Campus, which includes classrooms, training labs and simulators for the nearly 300 combined continuing education TJC students and Luminant employees.

The Power Track program offers concentrated training in power plant operations, electrical technology, mechanical technology, and instrumen-



Members of the 2014 Power Track graduating class commemorate the occasion at a special ceremony. The program is a partnership between Luminant and Tyler Junior College.

tation and control to accelerate the learning process for new workers.

Within the Power Track program, students can pursue the Power Plant Technology degree program. The college course program was designed to train students for entry-level employment in the operation of modern fossil fuel power plants, gas turbine facilities, hydroelectric plants, and other facilities; where steam and/or electricity is generated.

Students enrolled in the Power Plant Technology degree program can earn an associate degree while gaining practical plant operations experi-

ence from the on-site stimulators, which give students "real-life" application of the various technical disciplines taught ranging in safety, EPA regulations, basic electricity, boiler operations, mechanical skills as well as instrumentation and controls.

"Power Track graduates have an advantage because they receive a 'career test-drive.' As a company, we learn more about their capabilities, their desire to learn new concepts, and their communication skills. Additionally, the graduates receive first-hand knowledge about our company,

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COMMENTARY

## The many delusions of Donald Trump

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.  
NNPA Wire Columnist

What do you say about someone who apparently sees things that do not exist? I have been asking myself that question while I have watched Donald Trump's presidential campaign unfold. And, as taunts name-calling, and the lack of substance continue to define the tone of Trump's campaign, I have wondered whether we

need to think about Trump in a different way.

Let's review three items.

First, Trump has argued for a wall between the United States and Mexico to prevent Mexican migrants, who he contends are the major source of crime in the U.S., from entering this country. Interesting. In reality, the migration flow in recent

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Johnny Ford



Ted Terry



Muhammad Ali

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## Johnny Ford

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - As the U. S. presidential candidates prepare for national conventions and congressional campaigns remain in full throttle, the National Policy Alliance, a coalition of 16,000 Black elected and appointed officials and more than a million Black policy makers has organized a National Black Political Convention to be held June 9-12 at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Ind.

The event is a follow up to a historic gathering convened in 1972 by then Gary



Mayor Richard Hatcher.

"The Gary Convention was perhaps the single most important political event for Black America held during the last century," Tuskegee, Alabama Mayor Johnny

Ford said in an interview this week. "With that Gary Convention came the inspiration and motivation that led to the election of more Black elected officials than any time since reconstruction."

Although he is founding co-chair of the National Policy Alliance, Ford says there will be no top leader. Other convention convenors are former Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher, original convenor in 1972; current Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson; and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, the son of poet and activist Amiri Baraka, an original convenor in 1972.

According to NPA Executive Director Linda Haithcox, speakers will include Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan; Chicago Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.); Dr. Lezli Baskerville, president/CEO, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; NAACP Senior Vice President Hilary Shelton; Dr. E. Faye Williams, National Chair of the National Congress of Black Women; Flint, Michigan Mayor Karen Weaver; and Spencer Overton, president/CEO of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

"We have no one leader.

We don't have a Martin Luther King. We don't have a Malcolm. We have diversified if you will, whereby all of us have leadership roles," Ford said.

Some national leaders, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., who had originally planned to attend, had to cancel due to Friday's memorial services for boxing champion Muhammad Ali, organizers said.

The main purpose of the gathering will be to establish a Black agenda that will result in equality and justice, Ford said.

"The challenges facing the African-American community today are even

greater than they were 44 years ago," Ford said. "This convention is being held now because, If not now, when? If not us, who?"

Ford listed issues including "high unemployment, crime in our communities, the need for better education, quality and affordable and accessible health care, the need to develop our infrastructures in the Black community" as being key to a Black agenda.

These are issues being dealt with every day by state and local officials. "So, that's why we who are closest to the people are

**See FORD, Page 4**

## Ted Terry

LOS ANGELES - Theodore "Ted" Myles Terry, a Hollywood celebrity manager and former radio disc jockey, is celebrating the success of his brainchild, Turn Me Loose, a one-man biographical adaptation of the life and times of Dick Gregory, the critically acclaimed master comedian, social/civil rights activist and humanitarian. Terry has been an integral part of Dick Gregory's management team since 1998, managing Gregory's engagement scheduling, website, the Dick Gregory Foundation, and more.



Turn Me Loose, debuted May 19 at the Westside Theater in New York City and runs through July 3. It has received critical acclaim by the New York Times, WABC-TV, and other the-

atrical reviewers.

Emmy Award winning actor, Joe Morton (ABC "Scandal") stars in the show and has received high praise for his performance by New York and Hollywood critics alike. The production is written by Gretchen Law and executive produced by multi-Grammy Award winning recording artist, Golden Globe and Academy Award winner John Legend with Mike Jackson and Get Lifted Film Company.

Terry has worked on the concept for the production since 2002, and delivered 80% of the content for the

production via "21st Century State of the Union" featuring Dick Gregory," a 3 CD set is available at <http://teesanet.thestore24.com/21st-century-state-of-the-union/9780962549892>.

Terry's initial concept for the play included re-introducing Dick Gregory to a new demographic of Gen Xers and Millennials who may not know about the icon's contribution to African-American history and politics in addition to entertainment and lifestyle. In 2015, Terry was successful in getting Dick Gregory, 83, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

To bring his master achievement to fruition, Terry contacted writer Law to pen the play using "Dick Gregory's 21st Century State of the Union" as the primary resource for the stage play. After years of rewrites and edits, Terry connected with director

John Gould Rubin and producer Jackie Judd to bring it to the stage.

"Gregory is a dynamic orator. I have always felt his story needed to be told, as his experience and message become more relevant decade after decade. I had the vision, he had the message and that made us a

great team," said Theodore "Ted" Myles Terry. "I knew it was only a matter of time before funding for this production would follow. I just didn't realize how much time."

Theodore "Ted" Myles Terry is a celebrity manager most notably since 1998 for legendary comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory. His work in music programming is itself legendary among producers throughout the industry, and his vast network takes him inside and behind the scenes of America's most

**See TERRY, Page 4**

## Muhammad Ali

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

If you can back it up, it ain't boasting. Muhammad Ali could back it up. So when he proudly proclaimed he was The Greatest, no one disagreed with him.

On Friday, June 3, 2016 at the age of 74 Ali stepped out of the ring for the final time. The reaction around the world, was immediate as his passing was noted by everyone from President and First Lady Obama to even those who never knew him as a boxer, but as a man committed to his beliefs.

The staff of the *North Dallas Gazette*, joins Ali's



Charly W. Karl / Flickr

fans in offering our reflections on the champion – inside and outside the ring.

Thurman Jones, co-founder and Publisher, discussed the pride that Ali and James Brown helped African Americans to rediscover.

"Blacks were afraid to go downtown," Jones shared,

but watching the way Ali never backed down from his principals, even when he was stripped of his boxing title made a difference. This in combination with James Brown's lyrics proclaiming "I'm Black and I'm proud," emboldened black men and women to regain self-pride as a community.

NDG's Nina Garcia's memories of Ali are tied to her personal hero – her father.

"I first became aware of Muhammad Ali when I was no more than 12 years old," Garcia said. "I saw my Dad painting a picture of two men boxing. I was curious as to who they were and why he was painting a picture of them. He looked at me with this bewildered look on his face and said

'Float like a Butterfly ... Sting like a Bee! Haven't you heard of Muhammad Ali?!"

"My Dad then proceeded to tell me that he was a Heavyweight Boxing Champ and then gave me a brief history of this great athlete. I think at the time I was more fascinated with how my Dad captured the image of the boxers via acrylic paints on canvas. It seemed real to life to me."

As Nina learned more about his contributions to the world outside of the ring, she grew to appreciate Ali much more.

"He was a man who gave unselfishly and wanted to help in the change for bet-

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## Social Security deserves top billing in this election cycle

By Bob Jackson  
AARP Texas Director

Keeping Social Security strong and solvent for current and future generations is too important to be lost in the fog of campaign season.

It's crucial that Texans, especially the 13 million of us currently paying into Social Security, listen carefully to and carefully consider presidential candidates' plans for keeping Social Security resilient.

The stakes are high. According to the Social Security Trustees, benefits will be cut by nearly 25 percent by 2034 if no action is taken. In addition, millions of families today have precious little savings set aside as they near retirement. Pensions are becoming a rare commodity, and health care costs are on the upswing. What's more, younger workers are increasingly dubious about the program that's been a backbone of retirement se-



curity for generations of Americans and think that Social Security may be an empty promise for them.

Every year our leaders wait and do nothing, finding a solution grows more difficult. So the sooner adjustments are made, the smaller and less abrupt they will have to be. And it all starts with presidential leadership.

But regardless of who is next in the White House, Congress will have a key role to play. Two members of the Texas delegation are key leaders with notable

sway over Social Security's future: U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady of Conroe, chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano, chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee.

In November, Texans will elect or re-elect 36 men and women to represent them in Washington. As the candidates campaign in their home districts over the next few months, it's a great time to learn where they stand on the future of Social Secu-

rity. A key question to ask is: Will you take action to update Social Security so it is financially sound and provides adequate income for current and future generations?

Elections have consequences. Amid the noise and the insults that will fill the airwaves in the weeks and months ahead, take the time to think about the issues that really are important to you. Since 1935 when the law was passed, Social Security has been one of them, lifting millions out of poverty and allowing them to retire with dignity.

As engaged citizens, I believe we have a duty to do our part to keep Social Security strong for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

Bob Jackson is the director of AARP Texas. AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization with a membership of more than 38 million, including 2.2 million Texans.

## TRUMP, continued from Page 1

years has reversed between the U.S. and Mexico, i.e., people are returning to Mexico. Second, if Mexicans are the major source of crime, what does Trump have to say about Russian immigrants and the Russian mafia? What about previous generations of criminal organizations that have been associated with immigrant communities, such as the Cosa Nostra (Sicilian and Italian), as well as Irish and Jewish mobs? Why not expel all of them? Well, the Donald is silent on this. Besides racist, what does one call such a mischaracterization of reality?

A second example: Trump asserted—and repeated—that on 11 September 2001, masses of Muslims in the U.S. were applauding the terrorist attacks. No evidence—and I repeat NO EVIDENCE—has ever been found to back up his claim. Yet, Trump and many of his supporters continue to argue that they

saw it. How is that possible?

The third example, and I simply have to bring this up. Trump seized onto the so-called birther allegations against President Obama, suggesting that he is not a true citizen of the U.S. and, therefore, has been ineligible to be President of the U.S. Again, in addition to racism, what do you call someone who, despite all legitimate evidence, continues to assert something which is so obviously false?

This all reminded me of the “Flat Earth Society.” I have no idea whether they still exist, but during the 1960s this group, which believed that the Earth was flat, sent a congratulatory note to an orbiting U.S. space vehicle saying to them that while the Earth might look round, it was actually an optical illusion. Hmm...

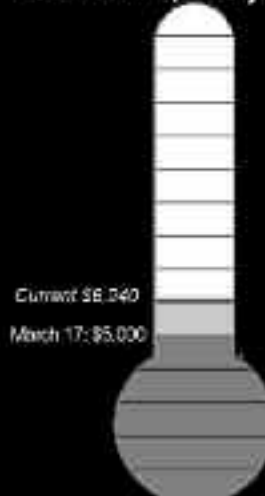
So, the next time that you hear someone say that they support Trump because he

calls it as it is, ask them about Mexican immigration to the U.S., Muslims celebrating 9-11, and his false citizenship allegations against President Obama and watch their response. If they tell you that it doesn't

matter, all that I can only suggest one thing...run.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at [www.billfletcherjr.com](http://www.billfletcherjr.com).

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# Parkland camp for children with burn injuries celebrates 25th anniversary

Justin Everett was 8 years old when he first attended Parkland Health & Hospital System's camp for children with burn injuries. For the next eight years he eagerly anticipated the first week of June and getting together with others like him. Camp was, after all, a place free from stares, questions and a place where kids could be kids.

Everett, who was burned over 33 percent of his body, primarily on his legs, spent years as a camper before becoming a counselor at Camp I-Thonka-Chi, which is Choctaw for "a place that makes one strong or fearless, not afraid to face life." Held at Camp John Marc near Meridian, Texas, the Parkland Burn Camp is celebrating its 25th anniversary. More than 60 campers are expected to attend this year's camp, which runs from Sunday, June 5 through Friday, June 10.

This year also marks the silver anniversary of Camp John Marc which hosts year-round programming and has specialized camp facilities uniquely designed to serve campers living with chronic medical and physical challenges.

"When you're there you



see kids with burn injuries and you realize you're not alone," Everett said. "It's cool not feeling like you're separated from others because of your injuries."

As a result of his injury, Everett spent two months in Parkland's Burn Intensive Care Unit and endured several surgeries. It was there he learned first-hand about the caring, compassionate nurses who work in Parkland's Burn Center. That desire to help others was never far from Everett's thoughts and after a brief stint in the hospitality industry today he is a registered nurse in Parkland's emergency department.

"When I was in nursing school I looked for a program that included a rotation in the burn unit. I wanted to be able to give back a little of what I got," Everett said, noting that during his rotations he re-

connected with one of the Parkland nurses who had cared for him when he was an inpatient.

Although he won't be attending this year's camp due to a scheduling conflict, Everett said it's not just the children who look forward to the week-long camp. Adults become kids at heart as they too participate in horseback riding, canoeing, swimming and archery, among other activities that last from dawn to dusk.

Donna Crump, Parkland physical therapy manager and co-founder and director of Camp I-Thonka-Chi, concurs.

"We've had counselors and chaperones who have come back year after year to be with the kids during camp," Crump said. "Everyone looks forward to it and many plan their vacations around coming to camp. It's really hard to de-

scribe the impact that Camp I-Thonka-Chi makes on you emotionally and spiritually. It's something that lasts a lifetime."

Camp I-Thonka-Chi welcomes children ages 6 to 18, and unlike some other charity programs, it is not supported by a national organization. Children can attend for free thanks to the generous donations of Parkland employees and area donors. Camp John Marc also helps with fundraising so more

children can attend. During the weeklong event campers build friendships, improve social skills and simply have fun without being self-conscious of their scars or injuries.

Established in 1962, the Parkland Burn Center is the second largest civilian burn center in the nation, providing care to more than 2,200 patients annually. Serving North Texas and surrounding areas, this comprehensive burn center is one of

only 62 verified burn centers in North America and the only one in North Texas, and provides all services from emergency treatment to intensive care to rehabilitation and outpatient follow-up care.

For more information on Camp I-Thonka-Chi or to make a donation, please visit Parkland Burn Camp. For more information on services available at Parkland, please visit [www.parklandhospital.com](http://www.parklandhospital.com)

## FORD, continued from Page 2

providing the leadership."

Ford acknowledged that while the issues are similar to 1972, the modes of communication are different. For example, there was no Internet back then. This gathering will take full advantage of the new media, he said.

"While this convention is not as well known or will be as big as the one that took place 44 years ago where more than 10,000 delegates came together and adopted a call for action, the African-American community in this country and even

internationally will be able to be a part of this convention by [live] streaming - thanks to the Internet."

Regardless of who shows up, Ford says the significance of going back to Gary 44 years later is powerful because of the historic impact the convention made then.

"Gary precedes glory," he said. "Gary is a significant and historic return to a place that is sacred in the sense that it was at Gary that we shaped a national agenda. It will be at Gary that we will return to shape a 2016 na-

tional agenda."

Ford said he does not expect everyone to agree on everything. But where there is agreement will come the Black agenda, he said. "And that will be the agenda that we will present to the national Democratic Party, the national Republican Party and the nation and the world."

The Black agenda "will be revisited in the fall" during national, state and local elections, Haithcox says. "This agenda will be something that can be utilized in every state, county and city."



Cedar Valley College, in partnership with AT&T, saluted the 2015-16 participants of the Project MALE program during a celebration and awards event held June 4 at Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

*Project MALE participants on Saturday, June 4, 2016.*

gram for African-American males in the kindergarten through fifth grade levels (ages 5-11). The Dallas

Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority became a sponsor for this age group.

The June 4 event, moderated by Dr. Lamont Smith, assistant superintendent of student services and accountability at Lancaster ISD, featured opening remarks by Antioch's senior pastor, Dr. Karry D. Wesley, who used music such as Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" to encourage the young males to continue making the right decisions in school and in life. The participating students received certificates, bow ties and a book, and also will partici-

pate in a summer reading program.

"We are very pleased to once again support these boys who are becoming young men of distinction," said Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, president of CVC, who will be retiring in August. "We are grateful to AT&T for providing major funding for this year's program, to Lancaster ISD, Antioch and all of the past and present sponsors and host sites for their critical support, and to the parents who encouraged

their boys to participate in this key initiative. As I conclude my tenure at CVC, I feel great pride in seeing Project MALE and the college's Male Initiative make great strides to help promote the success of these young males in school and in college."

Parents interested in learning more about Project MALE or wanting to sign up for upcoming sessions can visit [projectmaleprogram.net](http://projectmaleprogram.net) or call Dr. Ryan Thornton at 972-860-8027.



*Rockmond Dunbar, will appear at the event this Father's Day.  
(IMAGE: Flickr Athena LeTrelle)*

Good looking men who cook – sounds like paradise. You will find this slice of heaven on earth at the City Men Cook Annual Father's Day Culinary Event which kicks off at 3 p.m. on Father's Day.

The event is a celebration of men, food, community and Women. The event demographics include middle class and upwardly mobile residents of Dallas-Ft. Worth. The event partners with the City of Dallas, several members of Dallas and surrounding areas leadership including the Dallas City Council, Irving City Council, Former Mayor of Irving, Dallas, Restaurateur

Eddie Deen and others who donate their time and efforts to our volunteer organization. Past celebrity tasters have included Irma P. Hall (Soul Food), Darren Henson (Soul Food), Rockmond Dunbar (The Mentalist), Darius McCrary (Family Matters), Oscar Joyner

(Tom Joyner Morning Show), Marcus Patrick (ABC Soap – All My Children), Kiki Sheppard (Showtime at the Apollo), Rene Syler (CBS Morning News), Sybil Wilkes (Tom Joyner Morning Show) and more.

Visit here for more info Joey

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A black and white photograph of a young woman with dark, curly hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark, possibly black, top. The background is a library with bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is soft, highlighting her face.

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# TAMU-Commerce alumni honor Zenetta Drew in April Gala

The Alumni Association of Texas A&M University-Commerce honored Zenetta Drew as a Distinguished Alumna at their annual Alumni Awards Gala on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Drew has been the Executive Director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre for 29 years. More than 200 guests honored Drew and the other award winners, E.C. Larkin, Dr. Jack Lassiter, John Norman, and Steve Thurman, at the Alumni Awards Gala.

"This event gives us the opportunity to showcase the caliber of alumni we have in the world that are representing our university," said Derryle Peace, Director of Alumni Relations.

Drew was the first African-American female to receive the Alumni Award in the school's 127 year history. Texas A&M University-Commerce was one of the last universities in Texas that allowed Blacks to enroll following



*Zenetta Drew, executive director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, was honored by the alumni of Texas A&M - Commerce.*

the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. When Zenetta Drew attended the school, formerly East Texas State University, her dorm was segregated.

"I will be forever grateful to Dr. Kenneth McCord who suggested that I major in accounting, when I had never heard of accounting," said Ms. Drew. "Little did I know that I would be in the first class of three African-American students to receive an accounting degree from this university, at a time when there were fewer

than 50 Black CPAs in America." Drew was the commencement speaker for Texas A&M University-Commerce's graduation ceremonies in August 2014.

Texas A&M University-Commerce is the second largest school in the Texas A&M system and has become a majority minority campus. In February 2016, Ms. Drew was selected as a member of the Alumni Ambassador Forum representing the College of Business, Accounting Department. As an ambassador, Ms. Drew

has returned to the campus to interact with students and faculty. "I am pleased to serve as an ambassador and see that the accounting department has come full circle in inclusiveness and in 2016 Dr. Sandra Gates, an African-American, was named Chair of the department," said Drew. "I want to urge other Texas A&M-Commerce alumni to support our school by mentoring, providing internships, or joining the alumni association."

Drew worked at ARCO Oil and Gas Company in accounting and management for 12 years before joining Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) in 1987. When she started managing DBDT, the annual operating budget was \$175,000. It has now grown to over \$3.9 million with a staff that has increased from two to 33. The company's yearly performances and outreach activities have grown from 30

to over 600 services spanning the United States and international venues, and the audience growth has increased from 20,000 to 150,000 annually. Having performed at two Olympics, DBDT's outreach is now on a global scale. To date, the dance company has toured in five continents, 15 countries, and 31 states.

Drew currently serves on multiple boards including the Board of Governors for TACA (The Arts Community Alliance), the Advisory Board of the National Center for Arts Research at Southern Methodist University, the College of Business Advisory Council for Texas A&M University-Commerce, Downtown Dallas, and DataArts (formerly the Cultural Data Project). She also serves as Treasurer for both the Dallas Arts District and the City of Dallas' Dallas Development Fund, and is a member of the Women

Presidents' Organization.

Nationally, Ms. Drew has served on advisory panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and President Bill Clinton's Americans for the Arts Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Drew has also guest lectured on arts fundraising at Southern Methodist University, arts administration at Syracuse University and Le Moyne College, accounting ethics at Texas A&M University-Commerce and has been a speaker at Leadership Dallas, Leadership Texas, Leadership America and the Business Council for the Arts for multiple years.

For more information on Dallas Black Dance Theatre, visit [www.DBDT.com](http://www.DBDT.com).

For more information about the Texas A&M University-Commerce Alumni Association, visit [www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/alumni/alumniAssociation](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/alumni/alumniAssociation).

## Dallas expects nearly 5,000 for Juneteenth celebration

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

Juneteenth like so many of our holidays has evolved and the original meaning of the message of the celebration has become muddled along the years. Originally a Texas-based holiday, it is now celebrated throughout the nation by African Americans almost exclusively. It is not exactly the type of holiday advertisers can promote so you do not see many headlines and cer-

tainly no sales. But it is a day to enjoy community wide fellowship and this year Dallas is expecting over 4,500 visitors at the family focused festival from noon to 5 p.m., on Friday, June 19 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

June 19, 1865 the Union soldiers finally arrived in Texas and notified the slaves that President Abraham Lincoln with the Emancipation Proclamation freed them. One little detail

- they were freed two and half years earlier on January 1, 1863. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

From that day on the former slaves celebrated what eventually became known as Juneteenth and on June 3, 1979 Texas declared Emancipation Day (Juneteenth) an official state holiday. Over the years, it has often become a time for family and church reunions in the

African American community. A time to celebrate freedom, culture, and

achievements.

The Dallas celebration is expected to feature vendors,

a wide range of entertainment, plenty of food and activities for children.

## ALI, continued from Page 2

ter."

For David Wilfong, a production artist and writer, Ali was a culturally uniting figure.

"In my elementary years, integration and busing were still issues in Mississippi," Wilfong said. "The stories of black sports heroes, especially Ali with the signature poetry that accompanied his persona, were common

ground that could be shared among white and black kids from different neighborhoods who suddenly found themselves on the same elementary playground."

Even though Ali's greatest days were long since behind him before our interns were born, they also shared their reflections on Ali's contributions.

"I think Muhammad Ali

was the greatest boxer that ever lived," shared Michael Watts II. "He was entertaining and always spoke his mind."

McKenna Wierman, covering Lifestyles this summer for NDG shared, "Though I didn't grow up knowing much about Ali, his name has always been unanimous with standing up for oneself and staying true to your beliefs. He was a champion boxer and a champion of self-truth."

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# Irving's CanalFest is a celebration of art and culture on the water

The City of Irving, home to the most diverse ZIP code in the United States, will celebrate its signature event, spotlighting the arts and culture of those within the community and beyond. It also highlights one of the city's crown jewels, the Mandalay Canal.

The cultural festival will feature entertainment with three stages on the street and canal levels. The Irving Arts Center Cultural Stage will include performances, such as folk and cultural dancing and



live drumming, from artists representing countries around the globe. The Frontier Communications Arts Stage will include magic, stunts, and performances from former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus clowns.

An indoor exhibit will feature a variety of art forms in the art gallery on the canal level. Area artists will be able to gain public exposure, and the public will have the opportunity to meet talented local artists. Free canal-level

activities for children include hands-on crafts and face painting. At the street level, the Arts Zone will offer adults the opportunity to have a caricature drawn, their fortune read or get a henna tattoo. Attendees can purchase a personalized, airbrushed hat for \$5 to help support a local nonprofit organization in Irving.

Canal Fest is returning to Irving's Urban Center to celebrate the diverse array of cultures found in Irving. The event will be held from 2 to 8

p.m. June 11 at the Las Colinas Urban Center, 200 E. Las Colinas Blvd.

For attendees looking to expand their cultural dining horizons, the event will feature a food court with Indian and Latin American fare, as well as traditional festival

staples such as pizza and barbecue.

Admission to the festival is free. For more information, visit IrvingEvents.org and check out the City of Irving's YouTube page for the 2014 Canal Fest highlights.

## Irving makes Top 30 for Hispanic entrepreneurs

Irving ranked in the top 30 U.S. cities for Hispanic entrepreneurs, according to a new study by WalletHub.

U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Javier Palomarez once de-

scribed Hispanic entrepreneurs as "America's business future."

What's more, their economic contributions are nothing short of monumental. Since 2012, the more

than four million Hispanic-owned businesses in the U.S. have hauled in an extra \$144 billion in combined yearly revenue, bumping 2015's total to \$661 billion.

The study examined the

150 most populated cities in the country and weighed factors like highest median annual income for Hispanics and share of Hispanic owned businesses to come up with the list.

- 1 Laredo, TX
- 2 El Paso, TX
- 3 Corpus Christi, TX
- 4 Pembroke Pines, FL
- 5 Baton Rouge, LA
- 6 Hialeah, FL
- 7 Brownsville, TX
- 8 Sioux Falls, SD
- 9 Tulsa, OK
- 10 Oklahoma City, OK
- 11 Amarillo, TX
- 12 **Plano, TX**
- 13 San Antonio, TX

- 14 Chesapeake, VA
- 15 Miami, FL
- 16 Irvine, CA
- 17 Springfield, MO
- 18 **Grand Prairie, TX**
- 19 Mobile, AL
- 20 Overland Park, KS
- 21 New Orleans, LA
- 22 Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 23 Gilbert, AZ
- 24 Scottsdale, AZ
- 25 Shreveport, LA
- 26 Houston, TX

- 27 Virginia Beach, VA
- 28 **Garland, TX**
- 29 Lubbock, TX
- 30 **Irving, TX**
- 31 Augusta, GA
- 32 Tampa, FL
- 33 Anchorage, AK
- 34 St. Petersburg, FL
- 35 **Fort Worth, TX**
- 36 Montgomery, AL
- 37 **Dallas, TX**
- 38 Jacksonville, FL

- 39 Boise, ID
- 40 Huntsville, AL
- 41 Albuquerque, NM
- 42 St. Louis, MO
- 43 Fayetteville, NC
- 44 **Arlington, TX**
- 45 Salt Lake City, UT
- 46 Austin, TX
- 47 Henderson, NV
- 48 Knoxville, TN
- 49 Orlando, FL
- 50 Charlotte, NC

## Dallas City Council counting their pennies during budget review

By Michael Watts II  
NDG Contributing Writer

This week the Dallas City Council focused on the 2016 Dallas Fiscal Budget, the budget impact of the city's Health Benefit plan and community service rankings.

"Our constituents need to get involved with the community," stated council member Carolyn King Arnold. "The budget is the heart and soul of the community, people drive the city. If we want public safety, we have to pay for it."

Comparing the month-to-month income was increased, likely as citizens paid their bill before the increase in interest. On May 4, property tax income was



\$35.9 million and on June 8, it went up to \$41.4 million at a 7.5 percent growth. Sales tax has also increased by 3.6 percent. The net of other adjustments such as code fees, unclaimed funds, transfer, licenses/ permits, indirect costs and street rental have gone down. In May, it was down by \$2.1 million and on June 8 it went down again by \$0.9 million.

The healthcare industry is moving on up and is giving \$8.3 million for retirees. The four major healthcare indus-

tries are Blue Cross/Blue Shield, United Health Care, Cigna and Aetna. Employers are providing healthcare coverage for employees. The city of Dallas contributes \$77.9 million for medical plans. Employees and the retiree contribute \$50.3 million. Other benefits like dental and vision receive \$17.1 million in contributions from employees and retirees. The city recommended the Met life program for dental.

The city of Dallas took a ranking survey to see which city services residents thought were the most important ones. The police came in first place, while the fire/ ambulance services was second, street and alley repair took third, followed by parks and open spaces

was fourth and animal services was fifth.

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## Community Briefs

### FORT WORTH 3Kings of Blues

Freddie King, Albert King and BB King will be honored at The 3 Kings of Blues Guitar concert on Friday, June 17 at the Austin Event Center located at 1111 E. Berry Street, Ft. Worth. Paying homage to these musical legends are Ray Reed, Dylan Bishop and Holland K. Smith. General admission tickets are \$35, Reserved seating tickets are \$45 and VIP tickets are \$55. The venue features a cash bar, concessions and valet parking. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert starts at 8 p.m. Visit [www.jimaustinonline.com](http://www.jimaustinonline.com) or call 817-923-9305.

### McKinney 'Jammin' in June' concert series

Rock the summer nights away at Bonnie Wenk Park Amphitheater during the Jammin' in June concert series. The free concerts kick off June 9 and are offered on three consecutive Thursday evenings in June from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Bands will perform in the amphitheater located in the park, just in front of the pond. The line-up includes:

- June 9 – The Rafter Burners Band
- June 16 – Below the Radar
- June 23 – TBD

Bonnie Wenk Park Amphitheater is located at 2996 Virginia Pkwy. Admission and parking are free.

### RICHARDSON NTAPA exhibit

The North Texas Asian Photographers Association (NTAPA) is currently showing an exhibit titled From Sea to Shining Sea in the Eisemann Center's Green Mezzanine-Gallery. The exhibit will run from June 2 through July 4, 2016. NTAPA is honoring the National Park Service during their 100th Anniversary by featuring works from national parks, monuments and historic sites. Through these photographs, the timeless beauty of our national parks showcases this natural and cultural resource to the general public. [www.eisemanncenter.com](http://www.eisemanncenter.com)

## More happy winners...



Sereta Johnson (left), Margaret Coverson (right) and Rick Johnston, (not pictured) won tickets to the Taste of Dallas from the North Dallas Gazette. Readers who follow NDG online through Facebook and Instagram get opportunities to win free tickets to the hottest events in DFW.

## Fair Park is the place to be for Father's Day Weekend

Poor Dads, they just don't get the same respect as Moms when it comes to the annual holiday. We fret and anxiously pick the perfect gift and the perfect place to take Mama every year in May. Dad? We buy him a grill and tell him to cook his own steak. Well this year at Fair Park, there are plenty of opportunities to upgrade Dad's celebration.

First, the family can visit the Fair Park 80th Anniversary with everything from free concerts to rides and games at the Midway. But let's be honest, the main reason to go to the Fair Park celebration is the fact that Fletcher's is selling corn dogs on Friday and Saturday! The celebration started on Wednesday and ends Saturday.

The weekend events also includes North Texas Black Restaurant Week featuring African American restaurants, caterers, and food trucks. Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. bring your appetite to the Magnolia Lounge.

For the jazz loving Dad, take him on Friday night at 7 p.m. for the Jazz and Blues Concert from the African American Museum. Artists scheduled to perform includes:

- Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy Jazz Band
- Joyce Lofton
- Sherel Riley

- Herbie Johnson (jazz quartet)

If Dad is a history buff, perhaps he will enjoy The Dallas Center for Architecture, Dallas Historical Society and Preservation Dallas's exhibit about Fair Park's past, present and fu-

ture.

If he is an opinionated Dallas resident, the City would love to hear his ideas on how Fair Park can be better utilized year-round. The city is soliciting input from residents as they work on a revamped design for Fair Park.

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# Local actor delves into *Dreamgirls* for upcoming DTC production

By McKenna Wierman  
NDG Contributing Writer

You may have seen the movie, but according to actor and Arlington native Clinton Greenspan, you've never seen *Dreamgirls* like this.

"In the movie, they just sort of only played the greatest hits," he said. "In this show, the music is almost non-stop. It's crazy."

Greenspan, who will be playing the role of C.C. White in the Dallas Theater Center's upcoming production of the famous Broadway musical "*Dreamgirls*," has been in a number of shows in the Dallas area over the past few years, including "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Sweet Charity" at the Water Tower Theater, as well as playing the role of Benvolio in



Clinton Greenspan (Photo: DTC)

"Romeo and Juliet" at the Dallas Theater Center earlier this year.

But in "*Dreamgirls*," Greenspan was challenged to play a character who tells a different kind of story when it comes to rising to fame, one that it's entirely

fiction.

"I play C.C., he's the writer and composer for 'The Dreams' music. He's the brother of Effie White, and he goes down the journey with the girls throughout the show. He deals with it," said Greenspan. "He's

not in the spotlight, he's not the performer, but he's the other story that deals with becoming famous. He goes through the same journey as the girls, but from the other side."

Greenspan said the key to finding a connection with his character came through researching other songwriters and composers for famous artists, and digging deeper into what kind of world the *Dreamgirls* really would have lived in. And what he found helped him to tell the story of C.C. White.

But he isn't alone. Greenspan said the entire *Dreamgirls* cast at the Dallas Theater Center has come together to create a show that everyone will enjoy.

"From the very beginning, everyone has just been a huge family," he said. "I

don't mean that lightly-- every rehearsal we have, the first thing we do is we're

hugging each other as if we haven't seen each other for a

See DTC, Page 16

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# Pitching a women's soccer team to Dallas/Fort Worth

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

The 2015 World Cup win by the United States Women's National Team has once again ignited enthusiasm for women's soccer throughout the country. The tournament final drew record audiences on television, and the returning champions faced throngs of adoring supporters wherever they went.

More importantly for the long-term viability of the sport, the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) was able to enter a fourth season, one year longer than any previous attempts at forming a pro league for women in the U.S. Currently, the salaries are small compared to the men's game, and the league is limited to only 10 teams, but with a World Cup win in 2015 and the Olympic



FC Dallas goalkeeper Kelsey Devonshire came off the line to challenge and end this run on goal from Houston Dash forward Bianca Brinson. Brinson, who is on the reserve roster for Houston, also plays for FC Dallas' WPSL team during normal league competition.

(Photo: David Wilfong)

games coming this year, the opportunity exists to strengthen the existing fan base.

For now, the Houston Dash is Texas' only team in the NWSL, but this season the FC Dallas organization took the first step toward the stated goal of bringing a professional women's team to Dallas. FC Dallas Women (FCDW) entered

the Women's Premiere Soccer League (WPSL), the second tier in the framework of the American women's system. Founded in 1997, the WPSL comprises both professional and amateur athletes in more than 100 teams.

While FCDW is not in the NWSL, its roster includes players from the national teams of Mexico and

Trinidad and Tobago, and standout athletes from university programs. FC Dallas management believes the North Texas area is ripe with both fans and talent to produce a high quality program.

"We've put 14 players into a youth national team from our ECNL program in the last year-and-a-half," said FCDW coach Ben Waldrum. "So we kind of feel like this market, with just youth soccer in general, it's a real big soccer market. So we do think an NWSL franchise, there's some validity to that and should be a target for us. But it hasn't been like the Hunt Sports Group has come out to us and said, 'We want this team.' I think they want to support women's soccer and continue to monitor and see how the league goes.

"I don't think there's anything set in stone that, 'Your

attendance has to be this' or 'You have to be this successful in your WPSL league.' I think the biggest message for the local soccer community from our end would be, if you want to see a team be here in the future it obviously makes sense for FC Dallas to do it, and we want you guys to get out and show our ownership that women's soccer is viable and we can support it in this area."

As part of the process of bringing the team up to speed, FCDW played host to the NWSL's Houston Dash in a "friendly" played prior to the meet-up between FC Dallas and the Houston Dynamo. The game processed through periods of heavy downpours to a 3-0 win for the Dash, with goals scored by Melissa Henderson, Kealia Ohai and Stephanie Ochs.

But the score doesn't tell

the whole story, as the second half featured play by Dash reserves who are also on FCDW's WPSL roster, and FC Dallas developmental players as young as 14 years old. The two programs are connected both by shared players and family ties as the Houston Dash is coached by Randy Waldrum, Ben's father.

Though Houston's national team stars like Carli Lloyd and Morgan Brian were absent as they train for the Olympics, the game gave Dallas players the chance to go toe-to-toe with some of the top athletes in the sport. And on the women's side of the game, NWSL competition is a global mark to shoot for.

"If you were to go out and say in the men's world scene, 'What are the top leagues in the world?'

See WPSL, Page 12

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5PM: 80th Anniversary Concert on the Main Stage: Brave Combo, The Quebe Sisters, and The Mavericks. Fireworks follow the performance

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# Russell Simmons repays Rushcard holders, pushes for credit reforms

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Contributing Writer

Russell Simmons is just starting to regain a little normalcy in his life.

He's back at yoga and the hip-hop and business mogul is even able to run some errands without worrying about whether a disgruntled RushCard holder might verbally attack him or worse.

Simmons never hung his head despite mounting – if unfair – criticism that rocked the music impresario when his innovative prepaid RushCard experienced a computer glitch last fall that prevented hundreds of thousands of card holders from accessing their money.

"I took full responsibility. It's my card and I made sure to reach out to card holders personally and I reached into my own pocket to help people with their rent, their medicine or whatever emergency that may have come up," Simmons said.

"All I knew how to do was to make good on it and try to make the people that were damaged whole again," he said.

Simmons has done even more and he continues his push to have the underbanked and the underserved benefit.



*Simmons said that he's going to spend a lot more money in the Black community, in peacekeeping programs, and on art education, following the settlement his company reached over the class action lawsuit over the well-publicized computer glitch that affected thousands of RushCard users. (Valerie Goodloe/NNPA News Wire)*

"My mission is to eventually see that when someone pays their rent on time, pays their light bill on time, that these things go on their credit reports," Simmons said. "It should be and if I can't get regulators and the credit bureaus to do it, then I will have to start my own credit bureau."

If that sounds like a bit of a stretch, Simmons points to his starting the RushCard as proof that real change can happen. "I was first, no one else did this until I came out with my card," he said, noting that he's not only the face of RushCard, but along with his American Express and other items in his wallet is his own

RushCard that he regularly uses.

"Look, we were the ones who invented this and what I don't like is when people refer to us as a celebrity company," Simmons said. "All of what American Express is doing, all of what Chase Manhattan did, we did first. We're a virtual bank. The other thing is that

we didn't build this company to make money when we started and, really, I didn't think it would become a business but it did and I go to work every day to try and improve the service we provide."

Simmons said his fight for credit building is an uphill battle, but it's a battle that can be won.

It's as much part of his life as yoga, he said.

"You pay rent every month for eight years on a RushCard, why can't you get a mortgage? I think that's a travesty. I think a lot of the big companies like MasterCard, the Visas, the others that do the processing and infrastructure work; a lot of us could come together and force them to accept this information on credit reports of the world," Simmons said.

As Simmons pushes for changes in policies in the credit industry, he's leaving

the door open for starting his own credit reporting agency.

In the aftermath of the much-publicized computer glitch – which Simmons still refers to as a "tsunami"

– the business leader provided free service to card holders for five months, sacrificing all of his company's profits to do so. He also reached a more than

**See SIMMONS, Page 12**

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# Beauty conference in Georgia opens industry doors for black women

Atlanta, GA (BlackNews.com) -- Despite black women being the fastest growing entrepreneurial group in America, they continue to find difficulty becoming Beauty Supply store owners.

The sizeable problem in this \$15 billion-dollar industry is one that Beauty Supply Institute identified and decided to address. The institute, founded by a Black Beauty Supply Store owner and economics professor, who was threatened with a golf club by a Korean owner for shopping too slowly, will hold its 6th annual conference in August.

The 2-day conference at



*A two-day conference in Atlanta will focus on helping black women to become entrepreneurs in the cosmetics industry.*

the Sheraton Atlanta Airport will consist of 1 day of classes that will address the obstacles in the industry and how the attendees can get around them and Day 2 will consist of a tour of trusted distributors' facilities.

Since 2006, Beauty Supply Institute has opened over 80 stores in America, Canada and the Caribbean owned mostly by black women. The conference has attracted attendees from as far as the Netherlands,

Switzerland and Africa.

All attendees will leave with an instructional book on how to open a beauty supply store and a Beauty Supply Store Start-Up Action Plan outlining a specific checklist on where to go to get the help they need.

Registration is currently \$449 and increases monthly. Conference is free for Capstone Elite members who have never attended.

The summer conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on August 6th and 7th, 2016.

For more information, go to [www.beautysupplyconference.com](http://www.beautysupplyconference.com).

## WPSL, continued from Page 10

You'd automatically go, 'It's La Liga in Spain or the Premier League in England,'" Waldrum said. "People associate the men's game with those kinds of

clubs. But I think with the women, we have the world class players. We have the Carli Lloyds of the world, which is the equivalent of the Cristiano Ronaldos on

the men's side, in the U.S. So from a quality standpoint, I think the (NWSL) is doing great."

FCDW began their WPSL league play on May 21 with an 8-0 win over the Conroe-based Texas Titans. Two days

after their friendly against the Dash, they followed up with a 2-0 win over FC Austin Elite on Saturday and played Nacogdoches-based Pines 1779 to a 3-1 win on Sunday to remain undefeated with a 3-0 record as of press time.

## SIMMONS, continued from Page 11

\$20 million settlement from a class action lawsuit filed against RushCard, because of the glitch.

"I'm glad to do it. I had put aside \$25 million," Simmons said, noting that the card isn't just for communities that have been forgotten and underserved by banks. "There's no reason why small businesses can't use a Rush Business Card. We just added a feature, just now where if you lose your card, you can turn your card off instantly through an app. Then you can turn it back on."

Simmons continued: "This card should be for affluent people as well as underserved community members and it should be the wave of the future for millennials. This is the bank for millennials and the growth rate for our company is 70 percent

millennials, when it used to be single mothers. Millennials who don't like banks are coming in our direction and we haven't even begun the branding exercise to speak to them."

Simmons said that he didn't mind paying the \$20 million settlement.

"I don't mind paying the \$20 million. I don't mind that that was our cost. I am going to spend a lot more money than that in the community, in my peace-keeping programs, in RUSH and art education," he said.

Simmons said so much more will soon be announced and he's confident that RushCard holders and others will be pleased.

"We are going to be in the community in a way that we've never been," Simmons said.



### DALLAS DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### Department Policies Affecting Bicycle Use on the State Highway System

In accordance with Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, § 25.55(b), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) - Dallas District is partnering with North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) to offer a public hearing on district transportation programs and policies affecting bicycle use on the state highway system. The public hearing will be held at the City of Richardson Civic Center, Grand Ballroom, 411 West Arapaho Road, Richardson, Texas 75080 on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide information on the bicycle plans, policies, and programs for the TxDOT Dallas District and NCTCOG, and to receive public comment. Displays illustrating existing bike facilities and upcoming projects on the state system within the Dallas District will be available for viewing during an open house format beginning at 5:00 pm, with the formal presentation commencing at 6:00 pm.

All interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing to obtain information about the district transportation programs and policies affecting bicycle use on the state highway system and to express their views. Persons requiring special communication or accommodation needs should contact the TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Officer at (214) 320-6100 at least two (2) working days prior to the public hearing. Because the public hearing will be conducted in English, any request for language interpreters or other special communication needs should also be made at least two (2) working days prior to the public hearing. Every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs will be made.

All interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the district transportation programs and policies affecting bicycle use on the state highway system are encouraged and may be presented for a period of 10 calendar days following the hearing. Written comments may be submitted either in person or by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District - Advance Project Development, 4777 East Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643, Attn: Sandra J. Williams. All written comments must be postmarked on or before Friday, July 1, 2016 to be included in the official public hearing record.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Sandra Williams, TxDOT Dallas District, via phone at (214) 320-6686, or e-mail [Sandra.Williams2@txdot.gov](mailto:Sandra.Williams2@txdot.gov)

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## CAREER, continued from Page 1

which hopefully leads to fewer surprises about what it means to work at a power plant," advises Terry Bagley, Plant Manager at Luminant Stryker Creek Power Plant.

According to Luminant, the Academy met its employment needs and made corresponding adjustments to the number of Power Track students and new hires over the last year.

As workforce needs have been met across Luminant's power plant sites, an increasing number of students are now entering TJC's Power Plant Technology degree program. Approximately 80-100 graduates have completed the program since its inception in 2011.

According to Luminant, The Power Track program began with 33 students enrolled in the Fall of 2011. As of the graduating class of 2014, 55 students have successfully completed the two-year degree program. Of these graduating students, 87 percent are now employed in the electric utility industry.

Former student and graduate of the Power Track program, Joel Mendoza felt a program such as the one at TJC is very important as he accredits the program in helping him gain employment.

"Power Track is a great program for an entry-level employee. I received excellent training and knowledge from senior employees to help me get started in my job at Stryker Creek plant," states Mendoza, Production Technician for Luminant Stryker Creek Power Plant.

"The Tyler Junior College program is one of the few that was created with direct input from a power generation company and was specifically designed with the energy industry in mind," Baker adds.

According to Baker, the partnership between TJC and Luminant occurred after much hard work and planning was made to address a hard reality facing the company.

"Luminant did a study and saw that approximately 60 percent of their workforce would be eligible to retire

within the next 10 years. The problem was that the skills needed to operate their facilities and plants are not possessed by the majority of people that might apply for a job to fill the soon-to-be open positions," explains Baker on the concept behind the TJC and Luminant's partnership.

According to the TJC Student Handbook, approximately 300 students enroll in the program each year.

Baker described the typical profile of a student pursuing the program as someone between the ages of 18 to 25 often from a rural area. He also shared that those from urban/metropolitan areas have a more difficult time adapting to living in a small town; where many of the Luminant Power Plants are located.

Per a survey conducted by the American Association of Community College (AACC), of the 46 percent of all U.S. undergraduates that attend community college, 14 percent African American and 21 percent Hispanic choose a two-year community college to pursue their education. These figures were based on enrollments in the Fall of 2013.

A National Center for Education Statistics reports that it would cost roughly \$23,872 to attend a four year institution compared to the roughly \$9,574 amount it requires to attend a two year institution.

Rising cost of four year colleges and universities is what makes the Power Plant Technology degree program an attractive alternative for many students looking to acquire a degree in less time and money.

The cost of the Power Plant Technology degree program is based on the number of semester hours that a student is enrolled per semester and the cost is also contingent on a student living in and/or outside the Tyler Junior College District.

Approved TJC College District Service Areas, per the Texas Education Code (Section-130.206) are: Chapel Hill, Grand Saline, Lindale, Tyler, Yantis, Winona, Alba-Golden, Arp, Bullard, Hawkins, Jack-

sonville, Mineola, New Summerfield, Quitman, Rusk, Troup, and Whitehouse Independent School Districts; and the Van Independent School District, except the part of the district that is located in Henderson County.

Baker explains, "In general for a student who is enrolled full time and is in the District, the cost would be between \$1,500 - \$1,700 per semester. In most cases the total cost for the degree, excluding housing and board would be just under \$10,000."

Baker also explains students enrolling in the program are eligible for scholarships and to qualify

students need to pass the Plant Operation Selection System (POSS)/Maintenance Selection System (MASS) exams and he advises it has been difficult to find enough students who can meet those qualifications.

Additionally, Luminant promotes Power Track students can receive a full scholarship covering books and tuition toward a two-year associate degree contingent on applicants passing the POSS exam as well as receive a paid internship and the opportunity to foster a relationship that could grow into a full-time Luminant position upon graduation.

According to Baker, characteristics of students who succeed in their program will be dedicated and motivated in addition to having excellent study skills. Students must also have strong reading and writing skills as well as possess strong math skills.

"They must be willing to do more than the minimum of what is required. They have to show up to class each day on time. Employers value our graduates and you must treat your time in the program just as if it was a two year interview," exclaims Baker.

"Students who were offered full-time employment with the company are expected to take their classroom knowledge and transition into employees capable of fulfilling important roles and responsibilities at a power plant. The new hires are expected to be on time, work well with others, work rotating shifts and perform their jobs safely," adds Bagley.

To ensure successful student retention and program completion TJC put measures in place where students can receive the support they need in finishing the program.

"Students have access to tutoring. Tyler Junior College also has a Retention Specialist and Early Alert Program that can help to identify students who are struggling and provide needed help," states Baker.

Mendoza believes the program has been a gift to him and he also feels the non-traditional academic route he chose was the best choice. He highly recommends this program to individuals who would like working in a rural environment and enjoy a hands-on type of job.

"I'm the first one in my family to graduate with a college degree and now I have a full-time job where I can gain firsthand knowledge about power plant operation from senior employees. I can see myself building a lifelong career at Luminant," shares Mendoza.

For more information about the Power Plant Technology degree program visit: [tjc.edu/info/2004134/professional\\_and\\_technical\\_programs/187/power\\_plant\\_technology](http://tjc.edu/info/2004134/professional_and_technical_programs/187/power_plant_technology)

For map information on the location of Luminant plant facilities visit: <https://www.luminant.com/powering-texas/#.V1X2ZvkrLcd>.

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**June 12, 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.

**June 12, 12 Noon**

How do you impact others? Join us Sunday at noon in Bible Study; Senior Pastor Woodson or Pastor Brenda Patterson will teach a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 3 and Chapter 3."

Learn how to introduce others to Christ and make Him known to them; to help others know and grow in God's word; and to give others clarity and direction.

**June 15, 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 3 and Chapter 3." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
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972-492-4300  
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON**

**June 12, 10 a.m.**

You're invited to join us for Sunday in the Park Worship Service at Central Park in Garland, Texas as we praise and worship God for His blessings. Call the church for activities and more details.

**June 15, 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 Cor-

porate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching on 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.

**June 13-15**

FREE for ages 10-16, Dallas Leadership Training. Call the church for more information and to register.

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

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

**June 8 - 10**

All youth, join us for Vacation Bible School, "Submerged in God's Word", call the church for times and more details.

**June 12, 8 a.m.**

You're invited to join us at our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive for Morning Worship Services followed by our Sunday

Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 for our Hype Academics Awards; bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

**June 15, 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  
5705 Cheyenne Drive  
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956  
www.theship3c.org

**INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19**

**June 12, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.**

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

**June 13, 7 p.m.**

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

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972-372-4262  
www.Ibocchurch.org

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

**June 12, 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.

**June 15, 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.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy  
Senior Pastor and  
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy  
300 Chisholm Place

Plano, TX 75075  
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**SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)**

**June 6-10, 6:30 p.m.**

Parents, our theme this year for Vacation Bible School (VBS) for age 3 through adult is "I've Got Talent: Showcasing My Work for Jesus". Call the church for details or see a minister after morning service on Sunday.

**June 12, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Please join us for Sunday

Morning Worship Service and be blessed by God.

**June 15, 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 church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor  
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# Things we can learn...



**Sister Tarpley**

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That God is someone we can know: In all of His fullness; His forgiveness of sin, His comfort and tender care; His peace and joy within.

Of God's gentle hand of guidance, His rod of correction, His compassion and love, His Holy perfection . . . In Christ, we can learn about Him.

Of God's burdens and sufferings, His resurrection power, His Holy Spirit; we can learn of Him this very hour . . . He is a God we can know.

That we cannot make someone love us. We can only try to be someone who is not difficult to love.

That sometimes it takes years to build up trust; but seconds to destroy it. We can learn that it's not what we have in life, but who we

have in our life that counts.

We can learn that we can do something in a few minutes that will give us heartache for life; that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

We can learn that heroes are the people who do what has to be done, regardless of how they feel.

We can learn that maturity has more to do with attitude, dependability, and taking responsibility for our life than the number of birthdays we've had.

That no matter how good a friend is, that we are going to hurt each other every once in a while, and forgiveness is essential to lasting friendship; and that forgiving others is sometimes easier than forgiving ourselves.

We can learn that there is something exhilarating about the forward look; and that we should always look forward to something.

We can learn to look forward when a person becomes a Christian and renounces his love for the world; that he must not look back.

The Israelites continued to look back to the flesh pots in Egypt. They couldn't get Egypt out of their minds.

We can learn that we can profit from history, if we allow ourselves to learn from it.

We can learn that there are four possible looks: The backward, the inward, the upward, and the forward

look.

The backward look is retrospective; for the most part it is liable to arrest us and we become entangled again in the things of the world.

The inward look has value, but it has its dangers in that we can experience "paralysis through analysis."

The upward look is helpful and lifts us to the spiri-

tual stratosphere. The forward look is challenging and fruitful; it is accompanied by faith, courage, and enthusiasm.

How can we learn the above things? By Faith! "But without faith it is impossible to please Him . . . (Hebrews 11:6a)

Faith is a combination of things: TRUST -- Faith enables us to approach the Lord in trust. It causes us to say by our actions: "Lord, I trust you.

CONFIDENCE -- Faith enables us to approach the Lord with confidence. Our confidence is not in the abil-

ities, cleverness or ingenuity of man—but of God.

It is confidence that God will keep His promises. ASSURANCE -- It tells us that God is everything His Word says He is; that He is intervening on our behalf and for our deliverance.

COURAGE -- Faith is the courage needed to approach God with needs and to know He hears our prayers and answers them for His glory and honor.

ACTION: Faith has a passive side. It can be received as a gift from God and it also has an active side. Faith prompts action.



Chance Jones with his Grandfather Kenneth Jones, Sr. at his graduation in Denton, Texas, May 20, 2016

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**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**

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# NDG Book Review: *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Sign you up.

That's one of the things of which you're most proud: you freely give of your time. Rotary, Jaycees, Lions, your local hospital, if they need help, your name is on the list. Sign you up and they benefit but, if you're honest with yourself, so do you. In the new book "Tribe" by Sebastian Junger, you'll see why it comes naturally.

In examining American history, one "startling fact" is that a good number of early settlers voluntarily went to live with American Indians. They eschewed the familiar "European" community they'd always known, and chose a different, sometimes harder, way



of life that offered the personal values they'd come to want. Even former captives, once rescued from warring tribes, often escaped back to their captors.

Within that difficult (but arguably simpler) life those settlers sought were "three basic things" humans require for contentment: feelings of competency, connection, and authenticity.

The settlers got what they needed from Indian society but, says Junger, modern humans aren't always so lucky.

From birth, we are isolated from others. Hunter-gatherer mothers, conversely, carry their infants nearly constantly, and would be horrified at the idea of separate bedrooms. Their children grow up with a different sense of community than do North American children, but a craving for closeness is universal and timeless; Junger says he felt it when he spent time overseas with military troops. Personnel slept tightly packed in canvas tents, and he felt safer because of it.

We are, he says, hard-wired to live communally,

just as we're hard-wired to shun those who exhibit needlessly-selfish behavior. Ancient societies had to share to survive, and personal items were few; today, we rush to help those who endure disaster – indeed, we may act heroically – and we scorn wealthy CEOs who we think are greedy. And what we need to do to preserve our humanity, Junger says, is to embrace a mind-set of community, understand the need for sacrifice, and find a "sense of solidarity."

"It may... be the only thing that allows us to sur-

vive..."

At well under 200 pages in length, "Tribe" seems like it would be a quick, light read.

It's not. No, you'll be hanging onto every word of this book.

From post-collegiate hitchhiking and sharing resources, to ancient civilizations, the One Percent, PTSD, and a surprising discovery from wartime survivors, author Sebastian Junger offers readers a look at humanity that's graceful, and laced with a plea.

That plea is quiet, but it comes through in every an-

ecdote, personal story, and historical fact set forth here: to wit, we must return to the Old Ways of belonging. That's the message Junger gently pokes us with, but he does it with a sense of urgency that's compelling. You truly won't be able to forget it.

Without a doubt, therefore, this is a make-you-think kind of book. It's filled with interesting ideas and points, but it's ocean-deep in meaning and introspection. You can't ignore what you'll learn inside "Tribe," and if that sounds good, then sign you up.

## RTTBC moves to new home

Redeeming The Time Baptist Church (RTTBC), was founded in Feb 2015 and the mission is to help people explore a relationship with God and improve those meaningful relationships in their family life. The first formal worship service was held on Feb. 1, 2015.

RTTBC is under the leadership of Sr Pastor Kenneth W. Blake and, Assistant Pastor Edward Robinson. They both use the Bible in its entirety to teach the word of God in a way that is easy for everyone to understand.

Pastor Blake is passionate about sharing the word of God with anyone who is willing to hear.

According to RTTBC's website "Pastor Blake was called and licensed to preach the gospel at the young age of 25 years old while being a member of the Starlight Missionary Baptist Church of Houston, Texas under the leadership of Pastor E. Guillory." Pastor Blake also served as youth pastor for the First Baptist Church of Greens Bayou in East Houston from 1983-85.

Edward Robinson, the Assistant Pastor is an advocate for evangelism and helps with the evangelism efforts for RTTBC. The church has Sunday Morning Bible Study at 8:45a.m. and service begins at 10a.m. The men and women's ministry meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7p.m. Bible Study will be held on Wednesdays at 7p.m.

The new worship center is located at 502 S. Old Orchard Lane, Lewisville, TX 76057.

## DTC, continued from Page 9

month. It's crazy."

For many shows, the bond between a cast can mean the difference between success and failure. Greenspan said the welcoming and open environment he has experienced while working on "Dreamgirls" has helped the cast explore the shows darker themes, such as rivalry and betrayal.

"I will say that I think it helps to explore that heavy part of the show, having everyone being so comfortable with one another,"

he said. "Everyone is welcoming of new ideas and willing to try new things and that way when it comes time to get to the heavier stuff in the show, it's not like it has to be one way."

But besides working together, Greenspan said everyone worked together to tackle darker scenes in Dreamgirls.

"Getting into the heavier stuff in the show, I think we've all done our research," he said. "A lot of us have done research on

tons of Motown groups to kind of get that vibe, to see how things have changed and how the environment was. All that has helped us with the heavier parts of the show."

But along with some of the show's heavier themes, Dreamgirls is a story of phenomenal music, and Greenspan promises this production will deliver.

"This show can be for anyone. We have amazing performers, amazing singers and dancers," he said. "Anyone obsessed with killer vocals will love this show."

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