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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 32

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 7 - 13, 2026

World Cup hotel bookings short of expectations in Texas amid anti-U.S. sentiment abroad

A recent survey of hoteliers in the Dallas area and Houston found anticipated demand is not translating into strong hotel bookings less than 40 days from the start of the tournament.

By Paul Cobler/ Texas Tribune

The World Cup only comes around every four years and regularly draws millions of spectators from across the globe.

But expectations of a rush of international visitors and an accompanying economic boon — an estimated \$3.5 billion in Texas — are

being tempered in Houston and Dallas, where 16 games will be played in June and July.

FIFA, the governing body for international soccer, canceled hotel block reservations in Dallas and Arlington earlier this year and a recent survey of hote-

liers in Houston and the Dallas area found anticipated demand is not translating into strong hotel bookings less than 40 days from the start of the tournament.

Expensive ticket prices, trouble getting travel visas and anti-American sen-

timent amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainty may all be contributing to the underwhelming demand for stays during the tournament, said Brent DeRaad, president and CEO of the Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau.

“There certainly are not



NRG Stadium in Houston, on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. The stadium will host seven World Cup matches. Photo Credit: Joseph Bui for The Texas Tribune

only economic headwinds but certainly ... sentiments toward the U.S. by some countries out there internationally, it's potentially an issue in terms of people

being able and willing to travel to the United States for these matches,” DeRaad said.

Continue Cup Page 5

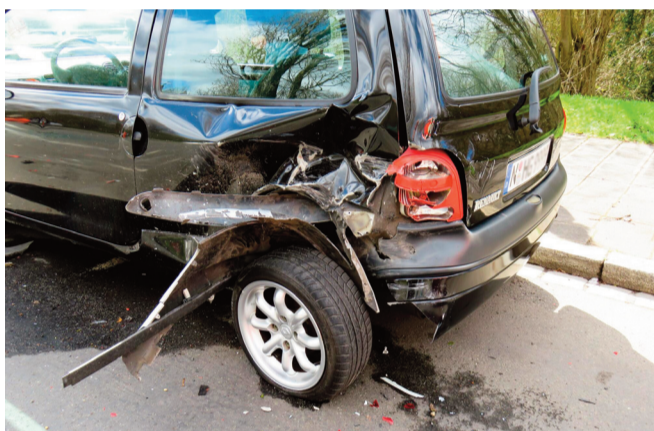


Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Car accident crisis: Vital steps to take immediately

By BlackPressUSA

Getting into a car accident can be frightening, but knowing what to do afterward can help you navigate this unfortunate event with more confidence. It's essential to ensure everyone is safe and uninjured, exchange contact and insurance information, and report the car crash to the authorities.

Car accidents can be fatal, and according to the Department of Transportation, more than 35,000 people died in car accidents in 2025. Nonetheless, many of the same steps apply regardless of whether it's a minor or major accident. Here, we offer a car accident checklist and some accident safety tips so you know what to do if you're

ever involved in one.

What to Do After a Car Accident?

Knowing the post-accident procedure before having a car accident can make the whole process less stressful and make your insurance claim stronger. Here are the most important steps you should take.

Check Everyone's Safe and Uninjured

First and foremost, if you're physically able, check whether everyone involved is okay. Whiplash is common in minor accidents and will need to be treated by a doctor. If you can drive the car, move it to a

Continue Wreck Page 2

LeMoyne-Owen College Announces Three Valedictorians for Class of 2026



Valedictorians pictured from left:

Tadiwananshe Rukasha, Marley Freeman, and Ashanti Stewart/Photo Credit: LeMoyne-Owen College

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC), the fifth-oldest historically Black college (HBCU) in the U.S., is proud to announce three valedictorians for the class of 2026.

Marley Freeman, from Jackson, Mississippi; Tadiwananshe Rukasha, from Mutare, Zimbabwe; and Ashanti Stewart, from Friendship Pen, Saint

Thomas, Jamaica, have reached the top of their class and graduated with a 4.0 grade point average.

Rukasha and Stewart will receive Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer Science.

Rukasha said she felt gratitude and excitement when she heard that she had become valedictorian. “Especially knowing I got to share this achievement

alongside my friend, it felt like a reminder that consistency really does add up,” Rukasha said. “I’m looking forward to moving into the next stage of my academic and career journey.”

“When I learned that I was named a valedictorian, it felt surreal. This was always a goal I quietly held myself to, so reaching it was a deeply personal moment,” Stewart said. “As I

graduate, I am looking forward to stepping into this next chapter, beginning my career, and applying the knowledge and skills I’ve gained while continuing to grow both professionally and personally.”

Freeman, who will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art, also played as a guard on the Lady

Continue 2026 Page 2

Dallas Love Field and Dallas Fire-Rescue Unveil First Fully Electric Aircraft Fire Fighting Vehicle in the World



Electric Aircraft Fire Fighting Vehicle

Dallas-Fire Rescue (DFR) and the Department of Aviation advanced safety, innovation, and sustainability in Dallas with the unveiling of the world's first all-electric aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) vehicle at Dallas Love Field (DAL).

DFR, which provides fire protection and emergency medical services across the city, also oversees the specialized fleet of

ARFF vehicles stationed at the airport. As part of ongoing modernization efforts, DFR and DAL deployed the new PANTHER 6×6 electric vehicle, manufactured by Rosenbauer International, on Wednesday, April 26, at the airport's ARFF Station 21, enhancing both operational capability and environmental performance.

Continue Vehicle Page 5



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Are You Retired Yet? You Can Still Make A Difference In Today's World

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

I grew up in a neighborhood where most people had some type of job. Some were self-employed while others worked for a company or corporation. All proudly provided for their families.

There were also folks in my Winston-Salem NC community who had worked for many years and were now retired. To be honest, the word "retired" wasn't in my vocabulary as a young boy. I would ask my parents about a particular person, and they would simply say he/she was retired.

They went on to explain to me the meaning of the word, thus my understanding of it.

When we would walk home from school or played in the street, we would see them sitting on the porch. We always spoke and were kind as we would sometimes run errands for them. There were occasions when they

would tell us about their working lives.

I found those moments of self-disclosure quite interesting. In a profound way, they were role models for us, and we didn't know it at the time. Their work experiences were varied, and from listening to them, fulfilling as well.

Over time, my friends and I realized that we were getting advice and counseling free of charge. Sometimes our street baseball games ended early because we were listening to them.

Mind you, these retired people were in their right minds and speaking clearly. There was no hesitation in their speech or in their opinions. I was admittedly mesmerized by them.

It made me wonder what they were doing at this point in their lives. Was sitting on the stoop and watching television all they did? I didn't know that we ever found out. You know the old expression, "that's grown folks' business".

Now, if you are retired, you have joined the ranks of the porch sitters and the television watchers. We can watch the cars go by and wave at everybody. In a

way, nothing gets by us.

As I was considering retirement some years back, I realized that I needed a post-work plan. My plan was interwoven with financial stability, emotional well-being, physical well-being, and something else to do.

Retirement is nothing you can do suddenly. It is a process that is filled with apprehension, excitement, and a lot of ifs. It is a period of our life that we have earned through hard work and dedication. Therefore, it requires some reflective discernment.

There was a song, at least for me, that was humorously guiding me along the road to retirement. Do you remember the hit song entitled, *The Gambler* by country crooner Kenny Rogers? I remember the lyrics, "you got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away and know when to run". If you are nearing the closing of one chapter and opening another chapter, then listen to that song. It will make you smile.

I think one of the most important components of a

retirement plan is to have something else to do. Making sure you are engaged in something that brings you satisfaction is important. Equally important is that it is on your terms and conditions. Otherwise, it will be a form of work, just disguised.

Our experiences are needed during these times. In some ways, we are unofficial griots. We advise and do our best to help those coming after us. That is our calling.

According to reports, there are 54.1 million retired workers receiving Social Security benefits. Some say that 63 years of age is the best age to retire. Of course, that depends upon your retirement plan and timetable.

Those professionals who study retirement trends say that it can be a wonderful time in our lives. Less stress and responsibility immediately come to mind.

Fred Rogers, professionally known as Mr. Rogers, said, "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." Enjoy retirement and have fun.

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Continued **Wreck** Page 1

safer location and turn on your hazard lights.

If you can, put up reflective triangles to warn other drivers of your stationary vehicle. If anyone is injured, the best thing to do is to call 911 and wait for paramedics and police to arrive at the scene.

Exchange Information With the Other Party

Assuming no one is severely injured, the next step is to exchange information with the other driver. You should exchange:

- Names
- Phone numbers
- Driver's license details
- Insurance details

Sometimes you might come across a driver who is unwilling to share their information with you. In this case, avoid confrontation, contact the police, and let them deal with the other driver.

Document The Accident Scene

Fortunately, almost everyone has a cellphone that can take photos, so the next step in the post-accident procedure is to document the scene. Photos taken with a cellphone will be time-stamped, and ensure

you get images of:

- Any vehicle damage
- License plates
- The area surrounding the crash site

Another thing to note is the weather conditions at the time of the accident. Gathering all essential information can help you when you make a claim from insurance. If there were any witnesses, get their information as well.

Contact Law Enforcement

If you haven't contacted law enforcement yet, now's the time to do so. In many states, it's mandatory to report the accident to the authorities or file a report.

Ensure you check the laws in your state so you know the requirements in advance. You also want to keep a copy of the report to submit with your insurance claim.

Contacting law enforcement can also help with documenting the incident. Even if the other party is in agreement about what or who caused the accident, there's no guarantee that they'll hold the same opinion later on.

Inform Your Insurance Company

You can do the next few steps after you leave the ac-

cident scene, but they are equally important as the first steps. Now is the time to report the accident to your insurance company. If you take too long to report the incident, your insurance company can delay the processing or even potentially deny your claim entirely.

Get Your Vehicle Repaired

Finally, once your insurance company pays your claim, you can get your car repaired. Often, you'll need to get authorization from your insurance company to ensure the repairs are covered under your policy.

Your insurance company will have a list of preferred repair shops, which can be helpful if you're unsure who to use, but you can also choose your own repair shop. However, it's vital to remember that your insurance company still needs to approve the estimate before you can go ahead. If the shop finds additional damage during the repairs, they need to report it to the insurance company so those extra repairs are covered.

When Do You Need a Lawyer?

Seeking car accident legal advice can greatly help you navigate this

stressful event, and someone like a Seattle car accident lawyer can help, especially if you've sustained injuries or been to the hospital after the accident. An experienced lawyer can thoroughly evaluate your case and give you an estimate of its value.

If you're not comfortable communicating with your insurance company or negotiating a fair settlement, they can help with both. A car accident lawyer can also be invaluable if your case can't be resolved through negotiation. In this case, they can provide legal representation in court.

Frequently Asked Questions

What Are the 5 W's When Submitting a Claim?

The five W's when submitting a claim are:

- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- Why

The "Who" documents who was involved in the accident, who provided treatment, and who witnessed the accident. The "What" refers to what caused the accident, what the weather conditions were, and what the injuries were.

CONTINUED 2026 PAGE 1

Magicians basketball team. "It is great to see that the hard work paid off," Freeman said about learning she became a valedictorian. She is pursuing entre-

preneurship and increasing mental health awareness through establishing a clothing brand.

The valedictorians are among 111 gradu-

ates who will be commemorated at the 156th Commencement Ceremony on May 9 at 9 a.m., on Brownlee Hall Lawn, on the LeMoyné-Owen College campus

at 807 Walker Ave. Memphis, TN, 38126.

For more information about *LeMoyné-Owen College's commencement ceremony*, visit the college's website.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Evidence of Walking in the Truth: Fellowship

III John Verses 1-14



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

As we approach our study of 3 John, this epistle will clearly show that the essence of one's character is exhibited in his behavior. This very instructive letter may be outlined as follows: I. Walking in the Truth (v. 1-8) (Gaius' Character and Good Conduct); II. Walking in Error (v. 9-14) (Diotrephes' Arrogance and Evil Conduct).

I. Walking in the Truth (v. 1-8) (Gaius' Character and Good Conduct)

In verse 1, III John was specifically addressed to an individual named Gaius. This verse reveals the elder's attitude of love toward Gaius. The love that Apostle John exhibited to Gaius was grounded in truth, meaning it was genuine

and in accordance with God's truth.

The Apostle expressed in verse 2 his desire for Gaius's temporal and spiritual welfare. The Apostle was elated to learn from other brethren about Gaius' faithfulness to the truth (v. 3). Gaius' sterling walk in the truth was commended by the Apostle John. Gaius' manner of life was in accord with God's truth! The Apostle John continued to express his elation in hearing that his children were walking in the truth (v. 4)

In verse 5, the Apostle John commends Gaius for his generous hospitality to Christian travelers (preachers and strangers). Gaius' generous hospitality was evidence of his faithfulness to the truth of

God. The report of Gaius' commendable hospitality had reached the church where John was (v. 6). If the Apostle John was at the Jerusalem church, then Gaius' hospitality was well known. Gaius' generous hospitality extended to traveling brethren was certainly well pleasing.

The service of generosity exhibited by Gaius had gone out for the sake of the Name, the Lord's (v. 7). It was indeed an honor for Gaius to go out in the Name of Christ. The Lord's servants who went out did not receive any help from the pagans. By extending faithful hospitality, believers like Gaius are working together for the truth (v. 8).

II. Walking in Error (v. 9-14) (Diotrephes' Arrogance and Evil Conduct)

In verse 9, we are introduced to a man named Diotrephes, who, according to the Apostle John, was motivated by a love for preeminence in the church. Diotrephes opposed John's appeal to extend help to traveling brethren. In verse 10, the Apostle John was confident he could deal with Diotrephes's disastrous behavior. Diotrephes was guilty of spreading malicious words against those whom he was not prepared to receive, namely, John's representatives.

Diotrephes also refused to welcome the brethren. Diotrephes also stopped those who wanted to

help by extending hospitality, putting them out of the church. In verse 11, unlike Diotrephes, Gaius was exhorted to imitate what is good rather than what is evil. Gaius' character reflects his relationship with God. The one who does evil reflects a dampened spiritual perception of God.

In verse 12, as Gaius' character testified to what is good, he would extend hospitality to Demetrius, for Demetrius was well reported of by others. In verses 13-14, John closes this epistle, hoping to meet others face to face soon. The Apostle wished Gaius peace and extended greetings from friends.

May God Bless!

CONSTRUCTION JOBS INCREASE IN 33 STATES AND D.C. BETWEEN MARCH 2025 AND MARCH 2026; 31 STATES AND D.C. ADD JOBS IN MARCH

Texas and Missouri Top Lists of 12-Month Gains, While California and Alaska Have Worst Job Losses; Ohio and Delaware Lead Monthly Gainers; Nevada Has Largest Monthly Decline

Construction employment increased in 33 states and the District of Columbia between March 2025 and March 2026, while 31 states and D.C. added construction jobs between February and March, according to an analysis of new federal employment data released today by the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials noted that while hiring has become more cautious in recent

months, many contractors continue to struggle to find qualified workers for specialized projects and urged federal officials to invest in workforce development and career training programs.

"March construction employment data show the industry continues to add jobs in many parts of the country, but hiring momentum has moderated compared to the rapid expansion seen over the past several years," said Macrina Wilkins, Director of Market Insights for the Associated General Contractors of America. "Taken alongside the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey released Tuesday, the data suggest

contractors are continuing to retain existing workers while taking a more cautious approach to expanding headcount."

Between March 2025 and March 2026, 33 states and D.C. added construction jobs, 16 states lost jobs, and employment was unchanged in Wyoming. Texas added the most construction jobs over the year (21,600 jobs or 2.4 percent), followed by North Carolina (11,300 jobs, 4.1 percent), Ohio (11,200 jobs, 4.4 percent), Missouri (7,700 jobs, 5.2 percent), and Louisiana (6,900 jobs, 4.9 percent). Missouri had the largest percentage gain over 12 months (5.2 percent, 7,700 jobs), followed by Louisiana and Nebraska

(both 4.9 percent), West Virginia (4.9 percent, 1,700 jobs), and Wisconsin (4.5 percent, 6,600 jobs).

California lost the most construction jobs from March 2025 to March 2026 (-9,400 jobs, -1.0 percent), followed by Florida (-8,700 jobs, -1.3 percent), New York (-7,100 jobs, -1.8 percent), New Jersey (-3,600 jobs, -2.2 percent), and Arizona (-2,900 jobs, -1.3 percent). Alaska experienced the largest percentage decline (-6.5 percent, -1,300 jobs), followed by New Mexico (-4.9 percent, -2,700 jobs), New Jersey, New York, and Mississippi (-1.7 percent, -900 jobs).

For the month, industry employment increased in

31 states and D.C., declined in 14 states, and was unchanged in Alaska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Wyoming. Ohio added the most construction jobs between February and March (5,300 jobs or 2.0 percent), followed by Louisiana (2,900 jobs, 2.0 percent), Florida (2,600 jobs, 0.4 percent), Virginia (2,100 jobs, 0.9 percent), and California, Maryland, and Massachusetts (2,000 jobs each). Delaware experienced the largest percentage gain for the month (4.2 percent, 1,000 jobs), followed by Louisiana and Ohio (both 2.0 percent), Nebraska (1.5 percent, 1,000 jobs), and Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts,

and Vermont (all 1.2 percent).

Nevada experienced the largest monthly decline in construction employment between February and March (-2,600 jobs, -2.3 percent). Other states with significant numerical losses include Wisconsin (-1,800 jobs, -1.2 percent), Indiana (-1,300 jobs, -0.7 percent), Georgia (-1,200 jobs, -0.5 percent), and New Mexico (-800 jobs, -1.5 percent). Nevada also had the largest percentage decline for the month,

followed by New Mexico, Mississippi (-1.3 percent, -700 jobs), Wisconsin, and Hawaii (-1.2 percent, -500 jobs).

Continue **Jobs** Page 4

~ THEME: GRADUATION

(Solution will appear in May 14 edition)

ACROSS

1. "___ Louise"
5. Unsolicited email
9. Parentheses, e.g.
13. Not mainstream, as in art
15. Heap
16. Chesterfield, e.g.
17. Not sharp
18. Katy Perry's hit
19. Grammy of sports
20. *Bachelor of Arts, e.g.
23. Autumn mo.
24. Opposite of outs
25. Muslim ruler, respectfully
28. Retirement safety net (2 words)
31. Completely isolate (2 words)
33. "That feels good!" exclamation
34. Programmer's bane
35. Mozart's "L' ___ del Cairo"
36. *Same as #11 Down
40. #me ___
42. Paleozoic or Victorian, e.g.
43. Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no ___"
44. River port in Belgium
47. Not figurative
51. Wavelike patterned silk
52. "For ___ a jolly..."
53. Bass product
54. *Student speaker at graduation, usually
59. Regrettably, exclamation
61. Immanuel ___, German philosopher
62. Fortune teller's props
63. Welcome ___, pl.
64. "Cogito ___ sum"
65. Subdivision of an act
66. Olden day "you"
67. Whitetail, e.g.
68. Late actor Kristofferson

DOWN

1. "___ Louise"
5. Unsolicited email
9. Parentheses, e.g.
13. Not mainstream, as in art
15. Heap
16. Chesterfield, e.g.
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63. Welcome ___, pl.
64. "Cogito ___ sum"
65. Subdivision of an act
66. Olden day "you"
67. Whitetail, e.g.
68. Late actor Kristofferson

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: GRADUATION

CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15				16			
17						18				19			
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59	60				61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67							68	

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2697	Holiday Word Blast Overall Odds are 1 in 4.15	\$3	5/24/26	11/20/26
2670	Money Money Money Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	6/17/26	12/14/26
2690	Jurassic Park Overall Odds are 1 in 4.28	\$5	6/17/26	12/14/26
2742	\$500 Frenzy Overall Odds are 1 in 4.33	\$5	6/17/26	12/14/26
2600	Casino Night Overall Odds are 1 in 3.51	\$10	6/17/26	12/14/26
2684	Ruby 7s Overall Odds are 1 in 3.88	\$10	6/17/26	12/14/26

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2026 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.



NEWS

Continued **Jobs** Page 3

For the month, industry employment increased in 31 states and D.C., declined in 14 states, and was unchanged in Alaska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Wyoming. Ohio added the most construction jobs between February and March (5,300 jobs or 2.0 percent), followed by Louisiana (2,900 jobs, 2.0 percent), Florida (2,600 jobs, 0.4 percent), Virginia (2,100 jobs, 0.9 percent), and California, Maryland, and Massachusetts (2,000 jobs each). Delaware experienced the largest percentage gain for the month (4.2 percent, 1,000 jobs), followed by Louisiana and Ohio (both 2.0 percent), Nebraska (1.5 percent, 1,000 jobs), and Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Vermont (all 1.2 percent).

Nevada experienced the largest monthly decline in construction employment between February and March (-2,600 jobs, -2.3 percent). Other states with significant numerical losses include Wisconsin (-1,800 jobs, -1.2 percent), Indiana (-1,300 jobs, -0.7 percent), Georgia (-1,200 jobs, -0.5 percent), and New Mexico (-800 jobs, -1.5 percent). Nevada also had the largest percentage decline for the month, followed by New Mexico, Mississippi (-1.3 percent, -700 jobs), Wisconsin, and Hawaii (-1.2 percent, -500 jobs).

Association officials said the latest employment data suggest contractors are becoming more cautious about expanding payrolls as project demand and financing conditions remain uneven. They added that maintaining a stable construction workforce will require continued investment in workforce development, career training, and policies that support long-term project certainty.

“Contractors appear focused on retaining their current workforce while hiring more selectively for essential projects,” said Jeffrey D. Shoaf.

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May 1, 2026

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- Form setter (Structures)
- Dozer Operator (Earthwork)
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- Mixer Operator (Earthwork)
- Finisher (Structures, Paving)
- Batch Plant Operator (Paving)
- Slipform Machine Operator (Paving)
- Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)
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 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Quinn Minute

Short history of long film strips

By Rix Quinn

Not long ago, at a class reunion, several of us got to talking about “film strips.” If you attended elementary school during the 1950s through 1970s, you may remember these visual learning tools.

Because there were so many of us, states quickly constructed schools to contain us. Educators developed scholarly “film strips” to help instructors explain complicated concepts.

Film strips were like slide shows. Each film

strip came with an audio recording. The record was put on a record player, which sat next to the film projector. (If you do not know what a record player is, please consult a history book.)

The teacher displayed the first picture of the film strip, and then started the audio. Usually, the audio narrator had an authoritative voice, so you were convinced he knew everything.

The teacher moved from one picture to the

next on the strip, and each time, the record made a beeping sound.

A kid in our class also made random beep sounds. This made the teacher race through the pictures on the film strip, leaving us several minutes of mind-numbing audio about hibernating snakes.

Did you personally ever see a film strip? Did anybody in your class die from boredom?

My two favorite film strips were “From cater-

pillar to butterfly” and “Mr. Gorilla learns to drive.” (Actually, I made that last one up, because I never saw a film strip about a gorilla driver, especially one who could pass the written exam.)

Why have fairy tales been so popular for so many years? Why do we remember them? Order Rix's essay on this subject: FAIRY TALE WRITING SECRET

The Dallas Post Tribune
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Love of Country

Love of Self

Love of Humanity

and

The Will to Serve



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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, May 7	Friday, May 8	Saturday, May 9	Sunday, May 10	Monday, May 11	Tuesday, May 12	Wednesday, May 13
H - 74° L - 62°	H 81° L - 68°	H - 85° L - 69°	H - 85° L - 66°	H - 82° L - 66*	H - 84° L - 70°	H - 85° L - 73°

- CONTINUED PAGE 1 -

World Cup hotel bookings short of expectations in Texas amid anti-U.S. sentiment abroad



Photo Credit: Facebook

While Dallas is considered the host city by FIFA, Arlington's AT&T Stadium will be the venue for nine matches and Houston's NRG Stadium will host a further seven. Local officials say ticket sales remain strong and they expect each of the matches to be sold out.

That demand for tickets, however, may be largely domestic, according to a report published Monday by the American Hotel & Lodging Association, a trade association that represents more than 30,000 properties across the U.S. Ticket prices for the matches are significantly more expensive than the 2022 and 2018 iterations of the tournament, played in Qatar and Russia, respectively, pricing out international tourists.

Bob Heere, professor of sports management at the University of North Texas, said FIFA's economic impact estimates are likely inflated if the wave of

international visitors does not materialize as originally anticipated.

"Any good economic impact study does not include locals because, indeed, they are, regardless, spending their money here, aside from the fact that they're not booking hotels, they're less likely to go out for dinner three times," Heere said. "So their spending is a lot less, but any spending locally does not contribute to economic impact."

The U.S. was the only major nation to register a decline in tourism in 2025, and officials are worried that trend could carry through to the World Cup.

Research firm Tourism Economics projects that more than 1.2 million international visitors will travel to the United States for the World Cup, but in April, the firm also tempered its expectations for the rate of recovery from last year's dip in tourism.

In Dallas and Houston,

70% of respondents reported booking pace below World Cup expectations and largely in line with a typical June and July, "pointing to a limited incremental lift from the tournament," according to the report.

FIFA expects to generate \$11 billion in profits from the 39-day tournament, being played across 16 host cities — 11 in the U.S., three in Mexico and two in Canada. Those host cities and their local organizing committees, however, are footing much of the bill to retrofit their stadiums for soccer games, provide security, organize fan festivals and improve local infrastructure to accommodate the fans.

While FIFA is paying to rent AT&T and NRG stadiums for the matches, the cities otherwise receive little revenue directly from the tournament. They do not get a piece of ticket sales, concessions, merchandise or parking.

FIFA points to the economic benefits each city is expected to receive from hosting matches as justification for the costs. A March 2025 study by FIFA claimed the tournament will generate \$17.2 billion in gross domestic product in the U.S. and \$3.4 billion in government revenue from direct and indirect taxes.

The American Hotel & Lodging Association study found that domestic travelers are outpacing international travelers. The study noted that international travel barriers, like

lengthy visa wait times, increased visa fees and uncertainty around entry and processing, are contributing to international travel not meeting expectations. The cancellation of hotel blocks in Dallas, Arlington and other host cities has exposed a "softer underlying traveler demand," according to the report.

Across the country, about 70% of FIFA's group blocks have been released, according to the report, which did not provide city-level data.

"Hotels across host markets have spent years preparing for the World Cup, and while there is real excitement, the data points to a more nuanced outlook," Rosanna Maietta, President & CEO of AHLA, said in a statement.

In Houston, organizers remain optimistic that the city will see a significant increase in visitors from previous years.

"We expect that World Cup will help deliver a better than normal June and early July in the Houston hotel market," Michael Heckman, President and CEO of Houston First Corporation, wrote in a statement. "Bookings are up year over year and we anticipate they will continue to climb as we get closer to the tournament."

Houston First Corporation, Houston's official destination marketing organization, published its own tracker of domestic and international travel tied to the tournament that found booking pace in the

city up 17% in June and 14% in July when compared to the same months last year. International air bookings through Bush Intercontinental Airport and Hobby Airport are up 33% in June but down 5% in July, according to Houston First.

The local host committees in Dallas and Houston also note that low hotel bookings could be offset by short-term rentals.

Short-term rental bookings are up 53% in the Houston area from last year for June and July, according to Houston First.

Heere said factors like the popularity of national teams playing, things for tourists to do outside of match days and ease of navigating the city could explain why Houston might expect a higher turnout than Dallas' games in Arlington.

In Arlington, DeRaad said he still expects to see hotel revenue be up 10% to 15% from last year but noted that comes with tradeoffs. Convention activity that would typically be occurring during the tournament is being crowded out and leisure travelers that may otherwise have visited could skip out this year amid the tournament, DeRaad said.

"You're trading some of that business for the FIFA impacts, but we still feel like, even with that being the case, that hotel revenue should be up," DeRaad said.

Heere, who hails from the Netherlands, has experienced firsthand the de-

pressed international interest in traveling to the U.S. for the tournament. The UNT professor pointed to a building anti-American sentiment in Europe due to efforts under President Donald Trump to leave the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance, efforts to acquire Greenland from Denmark and rising energy costs due to the U.S. war with Iran.

Heere was given a larger allocation of tickets for AT&T Stadium's June 14 group stage game between the Netherlands and Japan with the goal of inviting a group of Dutch companies to come along for a VIP trip.

"To my surprise, we have not been able to sell those tickets yet in the Netherlands because people are not excited about the United States right now, nor are they excited about the prices," Heere said.

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This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texastribune.org/2026/05/06/texas-world-cup-tourists-economic-impact/" />

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Solution: April 30 - TV MOMS

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CONTINUED VEHICLE PAGE 1

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- 91,000 pounds of pure electric acceleration from 0 to 50 mph in under 25 seconds, under 20 seconds in "Boost Mode," compared to 28 seconds for diesel.
- Increased master stream reach by 40%, extending from 190 feet to 250 feet, allowing crews to engage fires from a safer and more effective distance.
- Quiet electric motors delivering approximately 50% noise reduction during emergency responses compared to diesel operations.

"Innovation and new technology are a critical

part of Dallas Fire-Rescue's overall mission of rapid response, excellence in care, and the highest standards of safety," said Justin Ball, Chief of the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department. "Adding the electric PANTHER 6X6 to our fleet equips our team with the latest in sustainable technology that will help us enhance our operational capabilities at Dallas Love Field."

As the busiest medium hub airport in the United States, DAL serves almost 18 million passengers annually. The airport averages 675 aircraft operations daily, ranks second in the nation for private aircraft traffic, and has 100s of Fire-EMS related responses each year. This level of activity underscores the critical importance of maintaining world-class

safety infrastructure and rapid response capabilities.

"Improved safety and operational resilience are always top of mind at DAL," said Patrick Carreno, Director of Aviation at Dallas Love Field. "The presence and preparedness of our partner, Dallas Fire-Rescue, are invaluable to our airport. With the addition of the electric PANTHER 6x6, we are equipping them with a unique resource that enhances life-saving capabilities while supporting our commitment to energy efficiency and carbon neutrality."

The introduction of the electric PANTHER 6x6 establishes a new benchmark in airport firefighting: delivering high-performance response capabilities while significantly reducing environmental impact.



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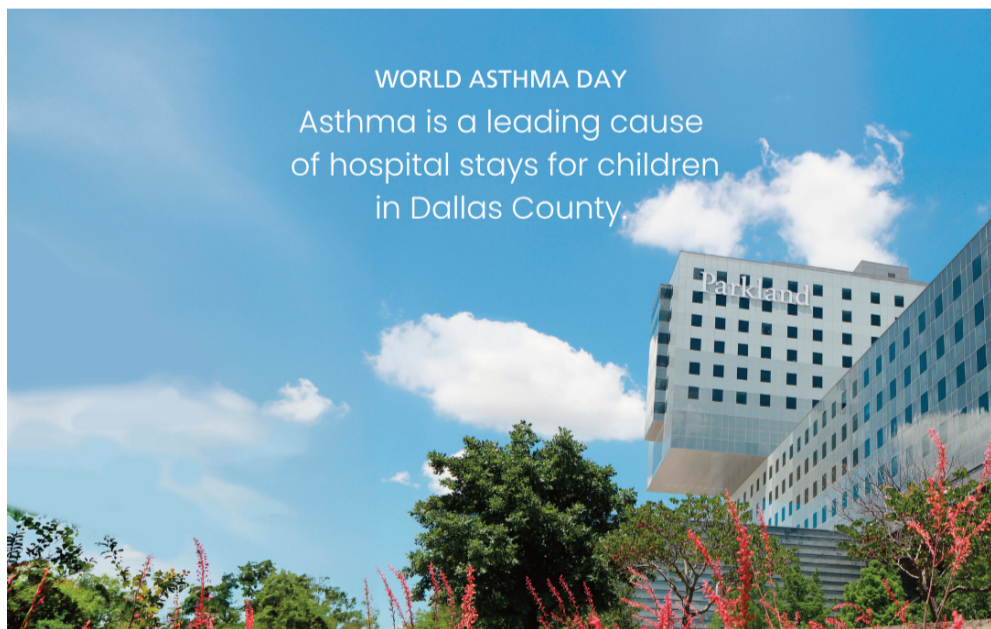
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Helping children breathe easier this World Asthma Day

Chronic condition a leading cause of pediatric hospital admissions



World Asthma Day - Tuesday, May 5. / Photo Credit: Parkland News

Asthma is a common condition that affects how children breathe, causing swelling and narrowing of the airways. When symptoms worsen, it can lead to an asthma attack, which can range from mild to life-threatening.

This World Asthma Day, Parkland Health is raising awareness and connecting families to care that helps children manage asthma and stay healthy.

“Asthma is a chronic condition that affects how children breathe, and symp-

toms can range from mild to severe. Increasing awareness helps families recognize early warning signs and seek care sooner, which can prevent complications and reduce the risk of serious asthma attacks,” said Cesar Termulo, MD, Associate Medical Director for Parkland’s Community Health Centers.

Common asthma symptoms in children include wheezing, shortness of breath, frequent coughing (especially at night) and chest tightness. While

asthma cannot be cured, it can be controlled with the right treatment and daily management.

Asthma continues to impact children across our community. According to the 2025 Dallas County Community Health Needs Assessment, pediatric asthma is among the top five causes of hospital admissions for children.

“Asthma remains a significant concern for children in Dallas County, highlighting the need for consistent management,

early recognition of symptoms, and access to care,” Dr. Termulo said.

Parkland offers care and resources to help families manage asthma, including community health centers across Dallas County, access to medications and care teams, and support from community health workers. Families can also enroll in Parkland’s asthma text message program for reminders, education and tips. To sign up, text @asthma to 844-721-0839.

“With the right treatment plan and ongoing support, most children with asthma can control their symptoms and live active, healthy lives,” Dr. Termulo said. “At Parkland, we focus on partnering with families to provide education, medications and tools that help them manage asthma day to day.”

To learn more about signs, symptoms and treatment options for children, visit www.parklandhealth.org/asthma-in-children.

For more information about Parkland services, visit www.parklandhealth.org.

"A Magnificent Mom's Day Experience"
 SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026
 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
 MLK RECREATION CENTER GYMNASIUM
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 This is a day to celebrate being a mother. We will inspire your mind, body, and soul with motivational words to help you endure for another day, week, month, and year.
 This is what you can expect:
 • Mingling and networking with other mothers
 • Wear your hats for a fun hat parade and pictures
 • Lunch
 • Be camera ready
 • Random Gift Giveaways
 "This is a FREE event for mothers" (NO children and NO men please!) All attendees must be registered for the event, No unregistered guest allowed. Just sign-up on bit.ly/magnificentmoms.
 Contact us at 214-670-8418 or visit dallasmlkcenter.com for more information.
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