

# North Dallas Gazette

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## The Color of My Skin touches on institutional racism

JerrKelia Bazile tells her experiences as one of the first black cheerleaders in her second book, *The Color of My Skin*.



BY TONYA WHITAKER  
NDG STAFF WRITER

In 2010, we would like to believe individuals are judged on the content of their character instead of the color of their skin. Rowlett teen JerrKelia "KeeKee" Bazile has taken on these is-

ssues in her sophomore book titled *The Color of My Skin*. Bazile, 17, who graduated from Sachse High School in 2010, recounts the good and bad experiences she witnessed during her time at the school.

The book details her

fight against the institutional racism Bazile says existed at Sachse High School during her tenure. Despite her frustrations, she was one the first black cheerleaders on the school's varsity squad as well as an academic honor

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COVER STORY

## Women and Long-Term Care Planning



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## Dallas Mommy becomes cheesecake expert

(NDG Wire) In the midst of a lingering recession, 33-year-old Dallas resident Juakita Berkley took a leap of faith and landed on top.

The former assistant principal now a stay-at-home mom launched Top That Cheesecake™ in 2008 and has been living the sweet life ever since.

Juakita's passion for cre-

ating and designing specialty cheesecakes has taken her from cooking in her kitchen to leasing out a commercial cooking space.

"Being struck by how sincere family and friends were as they commented on how delicious my cakes tasted, I began seeking addi-

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Juakita Berkley



Dallas Black Dance Theatre opens 2010 Wyly season performances

For more information see pg. 10  
[www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)

## E Awards honor minority businesses, corporations

(NDG Wire) Minority owned businesses with annual revenues under \$1 million to over \$50 million were recognized as Minority Suppliers of the Year by the Dallas Fort Worth Minority Supplier Develop-

ment Council at its annual E Awards held Friday, November 19 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. This year's event sponsors were TXU Energy, World Wide Technology and telcobuy.com.

The Council, whose

dinner "Growth Powered by Excellence", annually highlights companies and individuals who have made significant strides in minority participation and opportunities for growth. Minority businesses re-

ceiving awards include:

- MBE Construction Company of the Year – Azteca-Omega Group
- MBE Supplier of the Year Class I (under

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COMMENTARY

## A new START for women around the world

BY LINDA TARR-WHELAN

The so-called New START, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia, is poised for an historic ratification vote in the Senate this year. Three more major international treaties are also lined up on President Barack Obama's ratification to-do list: the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Dis-

crimination Against Women.

CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women and girls around the world.

Our role as a human rights defender would be improved mightily by ratifying CEDAW, reasserting the United States as a strong global leader in standing up for women and girls in countries worldwide. The resulting

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## People In The News...



Jason Cole



Donald 'Spider' Willis



Dr. Sheila S. Walker

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## Jason Cole

Jason Cole, a resident of Lewisville, Texas, ended his first year in natural bodybuilding with the top win in his division -- "Mr. Fitness Natural Olympia" in Reno, Nevada on Saturday, November 13 at the International Natural Bodybuilding Association Natural Olympia International Multi Sports & Expo at the Grand Sierra. Cole's competition platform was "Stomping Out Obesity."

The natural bodybuild-

ing movement has grown in recent years and drug free athletes are receiving more exposure and opportunities than ever. The "Natural Olympia" is recognized as the most prestigious natural competition in the World. Winning an Olympiatitle is considered to be the highest accolade in the sport of professional bodybuilding.

At the Natural Olympia International Multi Sports & Expo, bodybuilders representing other countries came from: New Zealand, Africa, Australia, Argentina, Czech Republic, Slo-

vakia, Canada, Albania, and Egypt. Bodybuilders from the USA came from the states of: Texas, California, Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, Florida, Indiana, Oregon, and Utah.

This latest victory was part of Cole's successful year with the INBA. On November 6, Cole, a Master Certified Fitness Trainer who resides in Lewisville, Texas won 1st Place for Male Fitness Natural Universe (Mr. Fitness Natural Universe) and 1st Place for Male Sports Model Natural Universe. Cole also holds

the 2010 International Natural Bodybuilder's Association's (INBA) "Mr. Fitness USA", "Male Sports Model USA", and Mr. Fitness Texas.

Cole is seeking teenage males between the ages of 15 - 17 who want to enter the sport of natural bodybuilding. He will train them and provide an opportunity for them to travel with him next year to compete in the teenage division of the INBA.

Innovation has been part of the INBA approach to become and remain the



rough Europe and Asia. The association is approved and supported for international events by the U. S. Department of State.

INBA will continue its organic growth, reaching for greater heights and make the sport

world-wide leaders in Natural Bodybuilding. INBA is the largest natural organization in the world promoting drug free competition in 40 countries and expanding th-

appealing by evolving, moving with the times. INBA creates more excitement for competitors, better events to make competing more rewarding.

## Donald 'Spider' Willis

A new sport show debuted Nov. 28 in the North Texas area with a bird's eye view of Cowboy Stadium and The Ballpark of Arlington. The show, *Sport Talk with Spider*, can be heard on the Fish Bowl Radio Network from 7 to 9 p.m. Fish-Bowl Radio Network is an internet radio network which is the brainchild of Sammi St.John-Martinez, a veteran

radio personality with over 20 years experience.

The host, Donald "Spider" Willis, is the former co-host of Talking Sports with Roger B. Brown on KKDA 730 AM. For 11 years, he interviewed many celebrities, sport personalities, politicians and media executives. He is currently the media director for Drexel Media Group, a small public rela-



tions marketing firm that represents several clients in Dallas, Muncie, Ind., and

Philadelphia. Willis has covered the NFL, NBA, Essence music festivals, college football and currently a high school correspondent for media publications.

The show will take phone calls, e-mails via Facebook, Twitter and the latest mobile phone technology. In-depth interviews with sports personalities, amateur athletes, and the everyday sport fan are planned.

"I'm extremely excited," Willis said. "I have been

looking for the right opportunity for some time now, and it came together with the FishBowl Radio Network family.

A segment called "Caught in the Web" will focus on issues in the world of sports that are not mainstream but do need to be addressed.

The inaugural show featured three North Texas high school district athletic directors who talked about the playoffs, new rules changes,

economics, re-alignment, and other topics. The guests were Goree Johnson of the Dallas Independent School District, Troy Mathieu of Grand Prairie ISD and Kevin Greene of Fort Worth Independent School District. The second hour featured Pittsburg Tribune-Review columnist John Harris Jr.

To suggest show ideas, contact Willis at dwillisdw@yahoo.com or 469-335-6668.

## Dr. Sheila S. Walker



Road Scholar recently awarded the *Asa Grant Hilliard III Award for Lifelong Learning* to Sheila S. Walker, Ph.D. The award provides \$5,000 toward a learning adventure offered by Road Scholar, and honors the late Dr. Asa Grant Hilliard III, world-renowned Pan-Africanist, educator, historian, psychologist, and advocate for learning through travel. Kathy Taylor, Associate Vice President at Road Scholar presented the award on behalf of Road Scholar and the Hilliard

family during the National Alliance for Black School Educators (NABSE) Annual Conference recently held in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Walker, a cultural anthropologist and filmmaker, is the Executive Director of Afrodiaspora, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., that is developing a documentary series and educational materials about the global African Diaspora. In 2010 she co-produced a documentary, *Slave Routes: A Global Vision* for the UNESCO Slave Route Project, and published the edited volume, *Conocimiento desde adentro: Los afrosudamericanos hablan de sus pueblos y sus historias* (Knowledge from the Inside: Afro-South Americans speak of their Communities and their Histories), in La Paz, Bolivia.

She also edited the volume, *African Roots/American Cultures: Africa in the*

*Creation of the Americas*, and produced the documentary film, *Scattered Africa: Faces and Voices of the African Diaspora*.

A longtime member of the Association for the study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Dr. Walker served as Director of the Center for African and African American Studies, and was the Annabel Irion Worsham Centennial Professor in the College of Liberal Arts, and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. More recently she was the William and Camille Cosby Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the African Diaspora and the World Program at Spelman College.

"Education and lifelong learning are crucial to African Americans," says Dr. Walker. "I am thrilled to receive the Road Scholar Hilliard Award. Researching African American culture

and its historical and contemporary links has been and continues to be my life project. Participating in a Road Scholar program to an area where there are little-known Afro-descendant populations — such as the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Turkey — would give me an opportunity to research these populations in advance so as to learn more about them during the program. I look forward to developing lectures and documentaries about my experience and sharing my newfound knowledge with my community and with others."

Road Scholar awards this competitive scholarship annually to an educator with at least 10 years of experience in education, who is a member of NABSE; a member of ASALH; is on the faculty of a Historically Black College or University; is a professor of African American studies; or is a supporter of lifelong learning. The

scholarship provides an opportunity to experience a Road Scholar program anywhere in the world.

"Through the Asa Grant Hilliard Award, Road Scholar recognizes the contributions of educators with a

longstanding commitment to lifelong learning," says James Moses, president and CEO of Road Scholar/Elderhostel. "We look forward to welcoming Dr. Walker on a Road Scholar learning adventure."

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## Southern Sudan Separation Referendum

BY MWANDIKAJI K. MWANAFUNZI  
NDG SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

A referendum process is underway that could split Africa's geographically largest nation state into two separate nation states.

Voter registration for the Republic of Sudan's referendum began November 15 and ends December 1, 2010. Actual voting on whether southern Sudan should become a separate country is scheduled for January 9, 2011.

The Sudan occupies 2,505,810 square kilometers (966,710 square miles), which makes it slightly more than one-quarter the size of the United States, according to nationsencyclopedia.com.

Northern and southern Sudan warred for two decades, culminating in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that established limited autonomy

for the South and called for a referendum on southern independence in 2011.

Sudan's population is 70% Sunni Muslim (mostly in the north), 5% Christian (mostly in the south), and 25% African traditional religion, according to PrayForSudan.org. The north, which is most densely populated, is 62% Muslim. The south, with a smaller population, is 50% Christian.

Yet, characterizations of the Sudan conflict as Muslim vs. Christian are misleading. Sudan's rulers, centered in the North, are more united in viewing themselves as Arabs than as Muslims. For example, Darfur, located in the North, is predominantly Muslim but not Arab, and has been famously oppressed by Sudan's Arab leadership.

"Arab" in Sudan is more about how peoples identify than how they look.

Nearly all Sudanese are black by American standards. If they dressed American and kept silent (to hide foreign languages and accents), they would likely blend into South Dallas or Harlem to all but trained eyes. Although many Sudanese "Arabs" are more brown-skinned than black-skinned, with complexions closer to Cicely Tyson's, some are considerably darker. But very few are light enough to pass for a prince in Saudi Arabia or a good ole' boy in Mississippi. Thus, Sudan's North and South, conflict, like the oppression of Darfur, is essentially black-on-black and more about ethnicity than race.

In ancient times, much of present-day Sudan was part of the Cush empire, located immediately south of Egypt. At its height, Cush

included Egypt and extended from the Mediterranean Sea the Great Lakes of modern Kenya. Tirkah, emperor of Cush/Egypt at its height, is mentioned in 2 Kings 19:9 and Isaiah 37:9. Although ancient Assyria defeated Tirkah and dynastic Egypt, Cush maintained its independence for many centuries afterward.

After Cush finally fell during the 4th Century A.D., three Christian kingdoms – Nobatia, Makuria, and Alwa – eventually comprised most of what we now call the Sudan. During the 14th to 16th centuries, Muslims conquered these Christian kingdoms. The region has remained predominantly Muslim ever since.

During the late 19th century European "Scramble for Africa", the British

**See REFERENDUM, Page 12**

## WOMEN, continued from Page 1

glow of praise for the Senate from half the planet would result in more positive action.

Advancing women's human rights worldwide is fundamental to America's national security interests and a cornerstone of our foreign policy. CEDAW ratification would amplify the U.S. voice in defense of women and girls at a time when their rights, even their clothing, are a global battleground. It would send the strongest possible signal that America is back as an international team player on the one hand, while reasserting our proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights on the other.

At the moment, only seven of the United Nations' 193 member countries have not ratified CEDAW – Iran, Sudan, Somalia, three small Pacific island countries (Nauru, Palau and Tonga), and the United States. Such embarrassing bedfellows! And being in their company weakens our impact in calling for women's protections

in other nations.

CEDAW offers a practical blueprint for action that every country can use to make progress toward ending discrimination – even ours. American women enjoy opportunities and status not available to most of the world's women, but few would dispute that more progress is needed here, such as in ending domestic violence and closing the pay gap between men and women.

Importantly, CEDAW would not lead to any automatic changes in U.S. law, and at a time when we are worried about the deficit, there is no additional cost. This treaty provides a framework for the continuing national dialogue on women's equality, as it does in every country. Similar treaties outlining global consensus on genocide, torture and race relations won ratification under the leadership of Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton.

Every country has a different starting point, and CEDAW offers govern-

ments and women alike a view of what non-discrimination looks like. Many countries have overhauled their laws and policies because of CEDAW. Mexico City, for example, responded to a destabilizing epidemic of violence against women by using CEDAW terms in a General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence, and all 32 Mexican states have now adopted it. Kenya used CEDAW to address differences in inheritance rights, eliminating discrimination against widows and daughters of the deceased. Kuwait recommended changes to its electoral law extended voting rights to women in 2005 based on CEDAW, and Bangladesh broadened access to education and vocational training for girls. Such examples are legion.

Basic health care, education, the right to work, to vote, to own property – it's not news that girls and women are still denied those in too many places, or that they are forced or sold into marriage to much older

men, or that violence against them is rampant, especially during conflict situations. Yes, some countries have ratified CEDAW and still discriminate against women – Saudi women still cannot drive cars, for example – but women in ratifying countries can and do demand that their governments live up to their CEDAW commitments.

That pressure would be much stronger if the United States joined the CEDAW community. The American public strongly supports the principles of education, equality, fairness, and basic human rights. CEDAW ratification requires 67 Senate votes. So please, senators, as you debate the New START, remember that women worldwide would get a new start as well from U.S. ratification of CEDAW.

*Tarr-Whelan is a Distinguished Senior Fellow on Women's Leadership and a former Ambassador to the UN Commission on the Status of Women.*

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# Think You're Not at Risk for Flu? You Might be Dead Wrong

African Americans are more likely to have certain long-term health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease than other racial groups. What many might not know is that having these illnesses puts people at higher risk of getting life-threatening complications from the flu. Having higher numbers of people with these conditions might help explain, in part, why African Americans, along with other minority communities, were hit hard by the 2009 H1N1 ("swine flu") virus.

The good news is that you can take a simple step to protect yourself and your family from the flu by getting the flu vaccine each year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says a flu vaccine is the first and best way to guard against the flu. CDC now recommends that everyone six months and older get the flu vaccine every year. "The new vaccination recommendation shows the importance of preventing the flu in everyone," says Dr. Anne Schuchat, Assistant

Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service and CDC's Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. "The new recommendation will allow us to present one clear message to everyone: get vaccinated."

Although a yearly flu vaccine is important, vaccine coverage rates remain low in the U.S., particularly in African Americans. Why do so few African Americans get vaccinated? Some people may have concerns about vaccine safety. It is important to know, however, that flu

vaccines (both the shot and nasal spray) have excellent safety records. Also, they are closely watched for any possible side effects. The most common side effects reported are minor, and are far outweighed by the vaccine's benefits. Millions of flu vaccines have been given safely over the years, and vaccine safety remains a priority every single year.

It's also important to know that the flu vaccine cannot give you the flu. Why? Because the flu shot has killed viruses, and the nasal spray has weakened

viruses that cannot cause illness. If you get flu-like symptoms soon after getting vaccinated, it can mean you may have been in contact with the virus shortly before getting vaccinated, or during the two-week period it takes the body to gain protection after getting vaccinated. It might also mean you are sick with another illness that causes symptoms similar to the flu.

By not getting vaccinated, you put yourself and those around you at risk. "People who do not get vaccinated are taking two risks:

first, they are placing themselves at risk for the flu, a possibly long and serious illness. Second, if they get sick they are also placing their close contacts at risk for flu," says Schuchat. "Flu can be especially serious for babies, children, pregnant women, and people with certain medical conditions. But even healthy people are at risk of the flu and should protect themselves."

For more information, talk to your doctor or contact CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO or <http://www.cdc.gov>.

## Methodist Dallas Medical Center Innovative Pregnancy Classes Spotlighted in March of Dimes National Prematurity Project

(NDG Wire) Recently the March of Dimes presented its annual national "report card" in an effort to raise awareness of high premature birth rates around the country. Its leaders joined in Dallas to spotlight an innovative pregnancy education class in partnership with Methodist Health System at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. The project has proven effective in dramatically reducing premature births among its participants and is offered through the Methodist Dallas Golden Cross Academic Clinic.

Roughly one in seven babies is born prematurely in Texas. Although the state has improved its preterm birth rate, it still received a failing grade – a "D" – in the March of Dimes report cards. Texas' preterm birth rate has dropped to 13.3 percent. Nationally, more than half a million babies are still born premature, at a cost of \$26 million across the country. Premature birth is also the leading cause of newborn death.

Despite the state and national data, Methodist Dallas Medical Center stands out as the only hospital in Dallas offering a Centering Pregnancy project – the Life Shines Bright Pregnancy Program – an innovative project to com-

bat these troubling statistics. This innovative preterm birth prevention program features a new model for prenatal care and group education for at-risk pregnant women and their families with a goal of significantly reducing premature births. The group prenatal classes offer young mothers opportunities for education, support, and networking with other moms-to-be. As a result of the program, preterm birth rates for participants in the program have

dropped to 5.6% compared to as high as 23% in the Methodist Dallas service area.

The March of Dimes national report urges states to address the number of women of child-bearing age who lack insurance, smoke, or deliver babies prior to full term. Pregnant women without insurance have less access to prenatal care and tend to seek care after the first trimester – threatening the child's health.

## Carrollton Drinking Water System Recognized as 'Superior'

The City of Carrollton drinking water system was recognized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as a "superior" water system after a comprehensive Sanitary Compliance Investigation.

These inspections are done by TCEQ on a recurring 2-3 year basis to ensure compliance with all

public health standards for drinking water. This thorough inspection assesses all the critical operational aspects of the system to include: confirmation of water operator certifications, effective operating procedures for bacteriological sampling, water distribution treatment, effective plant operation system monitoring and controls,

water storage operations and inspections, drought contingency planning, customer service inspections for backflow prevention /cross connection control program and review of the city ordinance to ensure enforceable proper plumbing practices.

The operation was found in compliance without any violations.

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# Garland to Heat Up Holiday Event with Giant Cup of Hot Cocoa

(NDG Wire) Come watch the city of Garland serve up more than 150 gallons of delicious hot chocolate from a giant cup at the city's annual Christmas on the Square festival! The free event will take place from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. December 9 in Downtown Garland at Main and State streets.

A 3-by-3-foot steel cup, custom-made by Smith Tank in Tyler, Texas, will be displayed in the Downtown Garland Square. Watch as Citizens Firefighter Club of Garland members top-off the giant cup around 6:45 p.m. Free cups of Nestlé® hot chocolate, courtesy of Nestlé® Toll House® Café

by Chip and Nestlé Professional, will then be served to children waiting to see Santa. "We're excited about getting to serve the kids a warm treat while doing something fun and different at this year's holiday celebration," said Bonny Patrick, special events coordinator for Garland.

Garland's Christmas on the Square will feature a variety of activities including:

- Tree-lighting ceremony
- Snow tubing hills
- Photos with Santa
- Horse-drawn carriage rides
- Pet adoptions
- Children's activities

- Choir performances
- Food vendors
- Christmas Bazaar

In addition, the Garland Firefighter's Association will collect toys to give to needy children as part of its annual Christmas Toy Drive. Unwrapped toys will be collected at the fire engine located at the corner of State

and Sixth streets during the event, and at any Garland fire station prior to the event. For a list of fire station addresses, visit [www.GarlandFire.com](http://www.GarlandFire.com) and click on "Fire Station Information" on the right side of the page.

For information about the event, visit [www.christmasonthesquare.com](http://www.christmasonthesquare.com).

## Old-Fashioned Christmas at AW Perry Homestead Museum

As the cold weather begins to blow through Carrollton it brings with it celebrations and traditions for Christmas. Enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas evening at the A.W. Perry Homestead Museum (1509 N. Perry Rd.) for free from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, December 3.



*This is the banister inside the AW Perry Homestead Museum decorated for the holiday season.*

Take a guided tour of the historic home and bring the kids so they can make an old-fashioned tree ornament or play in the small farm animal petting zoo. Indulge in cookies and hot

chocolate, while listening to Victorian carolers who will stroll the grounds spreading holiday cheer.

For more information, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/museum](http://cityofcarrollton.com/museum) or call 972-466-6380.

## Murphy Firefighters pitch in with drive-thru toy drive

(NDG Wire) Murphy's Central Fire Station, 206 North Murphy Road, will become toy central for several hours during the evening of Monday, December 13 as Fire Rescue team members will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the young clients of the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, according to Fire Chief Mark Lee.

"We are extremely happy to partner with the Murphy Chamber of Commerce on this annual program, and because the Fire House is easy to find, easy to drive in and out of, and full of people eager to help,

we're more than honored to be part of this," he said. The mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County is to provide safety, healing and justice to children victimized by abuse or neglect.

Firefighters will begin accepting the toys from drivers and passengers at 5:30 p.m. and continue until 8 p.m. Toys appropriate for toddlers through adolescents will be gratefully accepted during the drive thru toy drive. Toys should be unwrapped in order to determine a suitable recipient.

The collected toys will be presented to representa-

tives of the Advocacy Center at the Chamber luncheon set for Tuesday, December 14. More information on this project can be obtained by contacting Murphy Fire Rescue at 972-468-4304, or by sending an email message to Dawnelle Rounsavall at [drounsavall@murphytx.org](mailto:drounsavall@murphytx.org).

For those unable to drop off toys during the Fire Department's drive thru, toys for the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County may also be dropped off at the Municipal Complex during the Christmas at the Park event on the evening of December 2.

## Christmas on the Square Teams with DART Super Saturday – Dec. 4

Snow will once again be blowing into Carrollton on the first weekend in December, bringing with it a time of Christmas celebrations and the grand opening celebration for Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)'s new Green Line in Carrollton. So cancel the flight north and enjoy the snow in the Downtown Carrollton Square from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 4. Tube down a snow hill and stroll the shops, all decked out for the holidays, offering wonderful gifts and stocking stuffers.

The DART Light Rail will be open for anyone to take a free preview ride down the entire Green Line, including the three new Carrollton stations, before it officially opens for business on Monday, December 6. Stay until the end when the

Grinch, from How the Grinch Stole Christmas, personally hails the holiday season with an official holi-

day tree lighting. For information, call 972-242-4490 or visit [old-downtowncarrollton.com](http://old-downtowncarrollton.com).

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## TWU's nursing weekend program receives Texas Higher Education Star Award

(NDG Wire) Texas Woman's University's Undergraduate Nursing Weekend Program is one of four programs in the state to receive a prestigious 2010 Texas Higher Education Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

The Star Awards recognize institutions of higher education, public and private schools, school districts, organizations, groups and individuals for exceptional contributions toward one or more of the goals outlined in the Texas higher education plan "Closing the Gaps by 2015." Adopted by the THECB in 2000, the plan established four goals - to close the gaps in student participation, student success, aca-

demix excellence and research.

"Receiving this award is a testament to our nursing faculty and their commitment to creating and implementing innovative programs that meet the needs of working students who want to become nurses," said Dr. Patricia Holden-Huchton, dean of the TWU College of Nursing.

Offered at the TWU Dallas-Parkland Center, TWU's nursing weekend program is designed for individuals with non-nursing bachelor's degrees who want to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing, with an emphasis on the recruitment of racial and ethnic minority students and students from underserved areas. The program also is designed to meet the needs of

students facing economic hardships, including job loss. Nursing courses are offered 100 percent online with nursing clinical experiences on the weekends, so students can continue working while earning a baccalaureate nursing degree.

"Graduates of the TWU weekend nursing program will improve health access, decrease health disparities within their selected communities and bolster the nursing workforce in the state of Texas," said Dr. Stephanie Woods, associate dean of the TWU College of Nursing in Dallas.

Earlier this year TWU received a \$744,422 federal grant to nearly double its nursing weekend program. The grant, which is from the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will help fund 80 new nursing students in the TWU nursing weekend program from 2010 to 2013. Dr. Susan Chaney, nursing professor and program director of the TWU nursing weekend program, and Dr. Susan Sheriff, TWU nursing professor and nursing weekend program project coordinator, received the grant.

Other 2010 Star Award recipients are: "The Learning Frameworks" program at Brazosport College, the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) created by Senate Bill 940 by the 77th Texas Legislature and the "Modeling Excellence in Collabora-



Shown are, from left: Dr. Raymund Paredes, commissioner of higher education at the THECB; Dr. Susan Chaney, nursing professor and program director of the TWU nursing weekend program; Dr. Stephanie Woods, associate dean of the TWU College of Nursing in Dallas; Dr. Patricia Holden-Huchton, dean of the TWU College of Nursing; and Dr. Susan Sheriff, nursing professor and project coordinator of the TWU nursing weekend program.

tive Teacher Education program" - a partnership between the University of Houston Downtown and Lone

Star College's Kingwood and CyFair campuses. For more information, visit [www.thecb.state.tx.us](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us).

## Dallas career expert among the attractions at book fair Dec. 5

(NDG Wire) Carrell Chadwell, author of *Changing Careers in a Changing World: Finding a Job That Fits You*, will sell and sign copies of her book from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at Coppell Public Library. She is one of several authors participating in the library's Book and Author Fair.

For those struggling to find career satisfaction, Chadwell said it's important to analyze past jobs and identify the factors they

liked and disliked in each job, and begin building lists of requirements for their new careers. Also, career searchers should devise lists of questions they can ask or research about prospective opportunities to determine whether the openings will offer those needs.

The book also offers tips about:

- The three factors that will determine if a job is a good fit
- How to adapt resume

and interview tactics to reposition for a change of careers

- What older workers must do to compete in today's job market

"Even in today's difficult economic times, the chances of finding a rewarding new career are very good if you know clearly what you are looking for and know the strategies for finding the jobs that fit you," Chadwell said.

Chadwell, who has offered career advice on radio

shows and syndicated newspaper columns recently, will sell books at the fair at a discounted price. *Changing Ca-*

*reers in a Changing World*, is available through [drchadwell.com](http://drchadwell.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and other

distributors.

The library is at 177 N. Hertz Road in Coppell.



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## LEGAL NOTICE

**This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on December 30, 2010. You have until June 28, 2011, to redeem any tickets for this game:**

Game #1265 Veterans Winnings (\$2) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.72

**These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on January 26, 2011. You have until July 25, 2011, to redeem any tickets for these games:**

Game #1245 Bank Loot (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.96

Game #1249 \$1,000 Spin (\$1) Overall Odds are 1 in 4.70

Game #1271 \$250,000 Bingo (\$10) Overall Odds are 1 in 3.14

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LOTTERY**

The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$500. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$1,000,000 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at [www.txlottery.org](http://www.txlottery.org) for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, plays, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. © 2010 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

## Three deserving families receive keys to new Habitat for Humanity home

(NDG Wire) North Collin County Habitat for Humanity Board, staff and volunteers invite the public to celebrate the dedication of three homes on Saturday, December 4. North Collin County Habitat for Humanity will celebrate the construction of its 62nd, 63rd and 64th homes at the dedication ceremonies in McKinney and Melissa. The new homeowner families, the

Hash Family, the Rangel Family, and the Winters Family, thank all those who worked so hard to help them reach this goal.

Hash Family at 11:00 a.m. at the construction site on 404 Carver Street, McKinney;

Rangel Family at 12:00 p.m. at the construction site on 400 Carver Street, McKinney; and

Winters Family at 2:00



p.m. at the construction site on 3109 Red River Street, Melissa

Prior to moving in, the Hash, Rangel, and Winters families completed over

900 hours of “sweat equity” helping to build their home and others homes, a basic tenet of Habitat for Humanity. They will also repay the zero interest mortgage over a period of 20 years, illustrating Habitat for Humanity’s objective to give families a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.”

For these young families, finding safe, affordable housing is the first step in

creating a better future for themselves. However, that first step is not an easy one. Over 650,000 houses in Texas are substandard. More than 88% of poor Texas households with children have at least one major housing problem. Housing in older neighborhoods is often destroyed through arson, violence, or neglect.

Some families are living with other people in over-

crowded conditions. Others live without water or heat. No one should have to live in an overcrowded, dilapidated, dangerous house. Substandard housing seriously limits the potential of both children and adults. A simple, decent, affordable, place to live can break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

For more information, visit [www.ncc-habitat.com](http://www.ncc-habitat.com).

## Local realtor office help hungry families



On Tuesday, November 22, 2010, Harold Carter Realtors and Staff delivered Thanksgiving cheer to the Salvation Army in McKinney. Upon learning that the food banks donation were low this year, a host of turkeys and canned goods were delivered.

## NFL Mothers Gala

(NDG Wire) The Professional Football Players Mothers Association, Inc. (PFPMMA) invites you to celebrate a Super Bowl event to remember on Saturday, February 5, 2011, from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth Street, Garland, Texas 75040.



Peggy Jones

nations.

For more information, contact Peggy Jones at 214-

384-6032 or Chris Johnson at 814-321-6820 or [www.pfpma.org](http://www.pfpma.org).

## Grief author to speak at VNA Bereavement Luncheon

(NDG Wire) Norma Carter, author of *Without Warning: Successfully Coping with Sudden Loss*, will be the featured speaker at the December 16 bereavement luncheon hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association.

Ms. Carter will be speaking on “Coping with the Holidays.”

The luncheon is from noon to 1 p.m. at the Church



Author Norma Carter

of the Incarnation on 3966 McKinney Avenue in Dallas. There is no cost to attend the luncheon, but reservations are requested and can be made through December 14 by calling 214-689-2633.

VNA's bereavement luncheons offer supportive company from friendly and understanding people to individuals who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

## Local libraries offer books for e-readers

(NDG Wire) Are you considering giving (or getting) an e-reader or audiobook player for Christmas? There are many devices on the market today and the process of choosing one can

get confusing. You can take advantage of the local library's free downloadable services with your new device.

For example, you can transfer e-books to readers

such as these popular devices: Barnes & Noble nook, Kobo eReader, Sony Reader, and the Apple iPhone.

You can transfer audio-

This fun-filled “NFL Mothers Gala” will include dinner, dancing, live entertainment, and a silent and live auction. Special entertainment will feature “Dancing with the NFL Players”. Each ticket donation is \$100 with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the local Boys and Girls Club.

PFPMMA, a non-profit 501(c)(3) service organization provides support, promotion and proceeds to many charitable and educational projects. PFPMMA actively promotes positive images of professional football players through the development and presentation of educational programs and substantial community service initiatives throughout the nation.

Gala tickets can be purchased at the Granville Arts Center Box Office at 972-205-2790 Mon. through Fri., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for ticket do-

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See BOOKS, Page 11

**Every Saturday**

**Pure Saturdays** 2026 Commerce Street 23 & up preferred DJ Steve Nice in The Mixx. Doors open @ 10 p.m. Info text or call 214-810-5483.

**Every Tuesday**

The Irving Public Library invites families to enjoy stories and music in both English and Spanish. **Family bilingual storytimes** are offered at 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road, and at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd. For more information, call 972-721-2458.

**Ongoing**

**African American Republican Club of Collin County** meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. (Doors open at 6:30 pm.) Collin County Republican Party HQ. 8416 Stacy Rd., McKinney. Call Linda Wynn Drain, 214-498-7574 or website [www.aarcc.com](http://www.aarcc.com)

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce**, CCBC General Meetings, 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Call 469-424-1020 or email: [info@CCBlackChamber.org](mailto:info@CCBlackChamber.org) for location.

**DFW Financially Empowered Women** meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. Info: 469-942-0809 or [meeetup.com/378](http://meeetup.com/378).

**Group Business Seminars** at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.; 3rd Friday of the month 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for those interested in starting your own business, it is a Brown Bag Lunch with Free Parking

**No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch** 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at [www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com)

LimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

**The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series:** 4th Saturdays, 11am-1pm, Remarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Fwy., Suite 140, Dallas. \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. <http://nbwenorg.ning.com>.

**North Dallas Texas Democratic Women Regular Meetings** 4th Thursday, 6:45 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Rd (between Forest & Royal Lanes).

**Target Second Saturdays at Latino Cultural Center** On the second Saturday of every month family-friendly activities celebrating Latino arts and culture. Come in for one hour, or stay the day.

**Target Second Saturdays at Latino Cultural Center** On the second Saturday of every month family-friendly activities celebrating Latino arts and culture. Come in for one hour, or stay the whole day.

**Business Empowerment Sessions.** Learn to grow a successful small business. 1st Thursday of each month at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, 14120 Noel Rd., Dallas. Call 214-942-6698 for details.

**How to start a business.** Free sessions on getting started the right way. Sessions held the last Monday of each month. Call The PLAN Fund for details 214-942-6698.

**Through December 23**

The Dallas Children's Theater presents a new holiday treasure with Kathy Burk's *The Snow Queen* in the Studio Theater at Dallas Children's Theater's Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman Ave. Friday shows

at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday shows at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 22 and Thursday, Dec. 23 shows at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20 adult and youth section A and \$14 adult and youth section B for Friday shows; \$25 adult and \$23 youth section A and \$20 adult and \$18 youth section B for Saturday/Sunday shows. Saturday/Sunday senior discount \$20 section A, \$16 section B. Saturday/Sunday college student discount \$19 section A, \$14 section B. DCT box office: 214-740-0051. Tickets also available online at [www.dct.org](http://www.dct.org)

Dallas Children's Theatre presents *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells* at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. in Dallas. Performances times are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m.; remaining Saturdays at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.; Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 21 and 22 at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; and Thursday, Dec. 23 at 10 a.m. Tickets start at \$14. [www.dct.org](http://www.dct.org).

**December 2 and 3**

The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents *Comedy at the Muse featuring Foolish in the Muse Café* in the Dallas Convention Center Complex, located on the corner of Canton and Akard streets. Shows begin at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$15. Call 214-743-2400.

**December 3**

**Senior Access Visits Salado, Texas for The Christmas Stroll** Cost is \$45 per person. Registration and trip fees must be turned in by Wednesday, November 24. Call 214-947-4628 for departure times and locations.

**December 4**

**The Children's Medical Center Holiday Parade** is a free event open to the public. Sidewalk seating is available

along the Parade route. The parade begins at 10 a.m. at The Adolphus, 1321 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas 75202 and it ends at City Hall Plaza.

**December 6**

**Plano Community Charity,** 2436 Avenue K, will host its second annual Symphony of Trees from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**December 7**

**20th Annual Candlelight Vigil of Hope and Remembrance** hosted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving-North Texas (MADD) is from 7-9 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 1241 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas.

**December 7 through 12**

*How The Grinch Stole Christmas* comes to the AT&T Center.

**December 8**

The Dallas Architecture Forum will present architectural photographer **Timothy Hursely** at 7 p.m. at the Magnolia Theatre in the West Village. Single tickets, available at the door only, are \$20 for general admission and \$5 for students with I.D. Dallas Architecture Forum members are admitted for free. The reception begins at 6:15 p.m. For more information, call 214-764-2406 or visit [www.dallasarchitectureforum.org](http://www.dallasarchitectureforum.org).

**December 9**

**23rd Annual Leadership Garland Prayer Breakfast** Pastor Bryan Jarrett, [northplacechurch.com](http://northplacechurch.com) will speak on "The Power of Personal Worth" at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland from 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. \$25 per person/\$250 table of 10; Info: [garlandchamber.com](http://garlandchamber.com) or [jami.manners@garlandchamber.com](mailto:jami.manners@garlandchamber.com)

**December 10 - 11**

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents the **18th annual Christmas Kwan-**

**zaa concert** at the Naomi Bruton main stage in the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex on the corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas. More than 300 voices from Dallas Independent School District will highlight the holiday season with hymns, spirituals, gospel and classical music. Friday's concert begins at 10 a.m. Saturday's concert starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10. Call the TBAAL box office at 214-743-2400 for tickets.

The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters will present a **Triple Threat Concert Women in Rhythm** featuring female drummers Quita, Tymeshia and Pockett at 9 p.m. at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre of the Dallas Convention Center, corner of Canton and Akard streets in Dallas. Tickets cost \$10. For tickets, call the TBAAL box office at 214-743-2400.

**December 15, 20, 22**

Turtle Creek Chorale's holiday production *Oh Holy Night* will be held at 8 p.m. each evening at the Morton H. Myerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora Street, Dallas. Tickets range from \$20-\$65 and may be purchased at the Turtle Creek Chorale office at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, Suite #306, Dallas, Texas 75219, by phone at 214- 526-3214

**December 18**

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce will host its **4th Annual Holiday Extravaganza** at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Allen, Texas. Cocktail hour and vendor exhibits will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m.

Celebrated chamber choir The Texas Voices continues its eighth season of public concerts with *The Angels Sing Concert*. The 24-member professional chorus, directed by Alan Dyer, will perform its second concert of the season at 6:30 p.m. at Northway Christian Church,

7202 W. Northwest Highway in Dallas. Tickets are \$22 regular, \$15 for seniors (65+), and \$10 for students and may be purchased online at [www.thetexasvoices.org](http://www.thetexasvoices.org), at the door, or by calling 214-384-6336.

**December 22**

**The 2010 Dallas Jingle Bell Run** benefiting the Trinity Strand Trail and the Mavericks Foundation is at the Hilton Anatole. This is a family friendly and dog friendly festive event. There is a 1 mile fun run at 6:30 p.m. and the 5K starts at 7 p.m.

**January 8 - 9, 2011**

**Barney Live in Concert - Birthday Bash!** bops into the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. \$16, \$22 & \$27. A limited number of \$35 Gold Circle Seats and \$65 Dino Seats\* are also available. Additional fees and discounts may apply. Ticketmaster 800-745-3000 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**January 25, 2011**

**Seeking Common Good in the Midst of Growing Diversity** featuring T.D. Jakes, Chief Pastor, The Potter's House; at the SMU Tate Series Tickets to individual lectures may be ordered online at [smu.edu/tate](http://smu.edu/tate) or by calling 214/SMU-TATE 214-768-8283).

**January 27, 2011**

**Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber's State of the City Address** at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, info: [irvingchamber.com](http://irvingchamber.com) or 214-217-8484.

**February 12, 2011**

UNCF's 12th annual **Red Hot & Snazzy Benefit Gala** details at [www.uncf.org/dallas](http://www.uncf.org/dallas).

**March 6, 2011**

**Comerica Collin County Marathon** Info: [www.collinmarathon.com](http://www.collinmarathon.com).

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# Women and Long-Term Care Planning

BY DIANE PRATT  
AARP BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS

(NNPA) Today's women have more lifestyle options than ever before. We consistently assume many important roles – from caring for our loved ones (both young and old) to pursuing vibrant careers and lives. In fact, women are often heralded for their multi-tasking skills.

However, there is one task many of us put on the back burner, and that's planning for our own futures. When it comes to our home, health and finances, we like to be in control. Understanding and arranging for long-term care is one of the smartest decisions we can make to stay in command of our future.

But for too many women, particularly those of African-American descent, there is still a great deal of important information we are not familiar with and don't incorporate into critical planning for our futures.

Long-term care is a combination of a wide range of health and personal care elements that enable us to live as well as possible, how and where we want to live, including providing daily help, if we develop chronic conditions that last a long time.

AARP research shows that nearly nine in 10 Americans want to stay independent and in their own homes, but as people grow older and/or chronic conditions or disabilities develop, they may need help bathing, dressing or getting around. Planning for long-term care can help you and your family be more comfortably equipped to meet your future needs.

This preparation includes assessing future lifestyle needs and goals as they relate to your home and community, health, finances and personal wishes.

We're living in a wonderful world where many people are enjoying longer lives. In fact, women outlive men by five years, and two-thirds of Americans

also discovered that while African-American women are less in denial about the necessity of long-term care planning than other groups surveyed, at the same time

African-American women caregivers spend 20 hours a week as an unpaid caregiver to a loved one. In essence, caregiving can be similar to holding a part-time job.

Additionally, many caregivers may need to take time off from their full-time work, which often cuts into their pay.

This brings us back to the importance of long-term care planning among women. As caregivers, many women see and experience the angst of uncertainty surrounding finances and health that often accompany administering care during a crisis.

In a moment of reflection, you may realize you don't want others to have these same experiences and you want to be in control of decisions affecting you. Taking a few steps now will give you peace of mind in the future.

Because so many women live longer, it may mean living alone later in life, which increases the likelihood of requiring long-term care from a paid provider.

Planning ahead is so very important because long-term care is expensive, and Medicare and private health insurance do not cover these high costs.

Did you know that the average nursing home costs \$77,000 a year! Most people cover the cost of any long-term care they may



*A woman's income is nearly 25 percent lower than that of their single male counterparts and one-fourth that of their married counterparts – reducing a woman's capacity to afford long-term care costs. Even if a woman never requires long-term care, a family member or friend probably will.*

*Understanding your long-term care needs and options is the first step towards taking control of your future.*

over 85 years old are women.

However, a woman's income is nearly 25 percent lower than that of their single male counterparts and one-fourth that of their married counterparts – reducing a woman's capacity to afford long-term care costs. Even if a woman never requires long-term care, a family member or friend probably will. Understanding your long-term care needs and options is the first step towards taking control of your future.

AARP's research has

these women have the fewest financial plans in place.

African-American women say they will rely highly on family for future support; but they voice serious concern as to whether the younger family members will be prepared to step in and help out when needed.

Overall, caregiving is a key component in many Americans' lives. In fact, more than 43 million Americans over the age of 18 provide unpaid care for people age 50+.



need out of personal savings or other financial assets. And, most likely, for many of your expenses you could end up paying out-of-pocket.

AARP's **Decide. Create. Share.** planning resources can help you get started. The **Decide. Create. Share.** campaign is supported by three major non-profit organizations focused on women: the American Association of University Women (AAUW), MANA – A National Latina Organization, and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

Focused mainly on the nearly 40 million baby boomer women in the U.S., the campaign is a call-to-action to every woman from every background.

Through online tools

and resources, local community events and a variety of media outreach, AARP and its collaborators will use **Decide. Create. Share.** to raise awareness of long-term care planning among women – and men – across the nation.

Take this message to heart. Think about your future and the future of your loved ones. There are simple things you can do now that cost little or no money. Also, make use of resources through **Decide. Create. Share.**

Find out what's possible. Think about long-term care now – it's that important.

Call 1-888-OUR-AARP for a free long-term care planning guide and visit [www.aarp.org/decide](http://www.aarp.org/decide) for more information.



So, as an African-American woman, how do you get your long-term care plan into action?

First, make healthy choices now to support an active lifestyle. Also, it is very important to share your medical and financial wishes with your family and friends today, so you stay in control of important, future life decisions as well as help ease your loved ones' uncertainty.

Next, investigate how your home and community will serve your future lifestyle needs and goals.

And finally, know the costs of long-term care options and how those expenses will be covered.

## Trinity River Rolls Into DTC



By  
Rick Elina

*Trinity River Plays*, by Dallas native Regina Taylor floods into the theatrical estuary of the Dallas Theater Center and the sweeping current of the headwaters immerses the audience into the sights, sounds and (even) smells of all things holy about Trinity.

At the crux of this trilogy, are the familial issues of trust and betrayal, loyalty and alienation and ultimately, forgiveness and hope.

Love is lost and love is found as the characters drift through seventeen years of life, often times engulfed by it, struggling against the tide while choking on the darkness that lies beneath the sur-

face.

In Part I, Jarfly, Iris (Karen Aldridge) is a sixteen-year-old aspiring writer about to turn seventeen. She is left in the care of her Aunt Daisy (Jacqueline Williams) and Cousin Jasmine (Christiana Clark), while her mother is away. Iris is talkative and nerdish, long before Bill Gates made nerdism popular. Ms. Aldridge portrays Iris with a graceful geekiness that makes her instantly lovable. She pines for a neighborhood boy, Jack, played convincingly by Samuel Ray Gates.

Jack also has aspirations; he dreams of becoming a pro basketball player. During a chance meeting, Jasmine decides she wants Jack for herself, leaving Iris abandoned and betrayed. Jasmine's treachery foreshadows the ultimate betrayal yet to come, when Iris must defend her in-

nocence against unspeakable evil.

*Rain*, Part II, picks up when Iris, now thirty-four, returns home a success. She must now face the fallout of the tragic event that happened long ago. Harboring her secret, she finds herself in the middle of an emotional tug of war between Aunt Daisy and her mother, Rose, portrayed by the gifted Penny Johnson Jerald. Rose harbors a secret of her own. As we know, secrets, both past and present, take their toll and like a cancer, they metastasize to destroy all who harbor them.

In the final segment of the trilogy, *Ghost (story)*, Iris finds herself at a crossroad in her life. Rose, now dead, haunts Iris as she comes to terms with the ripple effect of her teenage past and it's devastating impact on her adult

present. The result is a satisfying conclusion.

Scenic Design by Todd Rosenthal was near flawless. The set drew the audience into Rose's home with a place set right at the kitchen table. When the characters are ready to eat, so are you. The resulting atmosphere was warm, intimate and

inviting. Karen Perry's costume design captured the period of each story and reminded us of the fashion felonies of the Seventies, when we all should have been arrested by the Fashion Police.

Trinity River Plays, runs 3 hours and 20 minutes, including two fifteen minute

intermissions with performances through December 5, 2010. For tickets or more information contact Dallas Theater Center at (214) 880-0202 or online at DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Rick A. Elina is a playwright and a member of the American Theatre Critics Association.

## Dallas Black Dance Theatre opens 2010 Wyly season performances

(NDG Wire) Dallas Black Dance Theatre opens its Wyly Performance Series, Wednesday, Dec. 8 with a performance that is filled with world premieres and audience favorites. The performance features a world premiere from Francesca Harper of the Harper Project, *Instinct*: 11.1. The piece captures

the essence of her late mother Denise Jefferson, former Ailey School director, with strength, ferocity, and a sense of empowerment.

Hope Boykin returns to Dallas with her pensive yet subtle piece, *Eventu-ally*, Two while Christopher



Christopher McKenzie Jr., left, and Bravita Threatt

See THEATRE Page 15

## RACISM, continued from Page 1

student. Bazile currently attends the University of Houston.

Bazile boldly confronts institutional racism in her book. To allow the reader to sympathize with her battles, she references statistics and emphasizes the impact of Sachse's student population at "83.1 percent white and only 4.6 percent black." Bazile claims she witnessed racism from white administrators at Sachse who did not treat all students the same. In addition, she said black students were not encouraged to take advanced placement classes or pursue scholarship monies that went to white students with "similar or with less academic achievements as black students."

After reading *The Color of My Skin*, especially the first few chapters, I thought the book was a gutsy move by Bazile. Racism is a taboo subject, and no one outside the reigns of an extremist group wants to admit publicly they hold negative thoughts about a certain group of people. The oppressed tend to shy away from saying a word.

"I wanted my voice to be

heard," the soft-spoken Bazile said. "You really don't hear young or older people speaking out about racial issues."

I attempted to contact Steve Hammerle, principal of Sachse, to allow him to respond to Bazile's accusations and was referred to Reavis Wortham, director of communications for Garland ISD.

Wortham said neither Bazile nor her parents have filed a formal complaint with the district regarding their accusations. Sachse High is a part of the Garland ISD.

"No one has brought their concerns forward. We have not seen this young lady (KeeKee) or her parents take the necessary steps to start an investigation. We always

welcome patrons and students to voice their concerns; and we address any concern that parents and students have so we can benefit all district patrons to the best of our abilities."

Wortham said Garland ISD has publicly recognized Bazile with its Evidence of Excellence award for the publication of her first book *The Piercing That Changed*

*My Life*.

Bazile dedicates the remainder of *The Color of My Skin* to her entrepreneurial endeavors and educates readers on cheerleading and famous celebs who took part in the activity. Can you imagine Samuel L. Jackson as a cheerleader?

Bazile tells us that we can achieve anything in life, and she draws inspiration from

her parents, President Barack Obama and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bazile reminds readers that sacrifice can make one uncomfortable but, in the end, it is worth all the stress.

"If you withstand the challenges long enough, you will find that your success awaits you on the other side of your mind."

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## NABJ announces new executive director

(NDG Wire) The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) announced that Maurice Foster is the new Executive Director of the largest journalist organization of color in the nation.

Foster joins NABJ from the National Bar Association, where he served as Deputy Executive Director for seven years.

He brings more than 22 years of diversified leadership experience in association and non-profit manage-

ment. He is an experienced and proven achiever in fundraising and grants management with a successful record of developing, soliciting, and writing grant proposals, especially in the Washington, D.C. area.

He has raised and administered millions in federal grants and contracts, and handled budgets for a variety of organizations and programs.

Foster is a graduate of Rutgers University, the Anti-

och School of Law

"Maurice has the experience and vision that we need to help us raise the bar," said NABJ President Kathy Y. Times. "He hit the ground running this week, and he's working on many of our 2011 initiatives. Please look for announcements and information in the comings days and weeks regarding our 2011 Convention in Philadelphia, August 3-7, 2011."

"I am excited about joining the National Association

of Black Journalists; it is a great organization with a rich 35 year history, and I look forward to the new heights that NABJ will achieve," said Foster.

An advocacy group established in 1975 in Washington, D.C., NABJ is the largest organization of journalists of color in the nation, with more than 4,100 members, and provides educational, career development and support to black journalists worldwide.

## BOOKS, continued from Page 7

books to devices such as: Apple iPad, Apple iPhone and other smartphones, Apple iPod, Barnes & Noble nook, Creative ZEN, HTC Droid, Microsoft Zune, SanDisk Sansa, Sony Reader, and more.

Explore the virtual bookshelves of digital downloads from at your local library this holiday season!



## E AWARDS, continued from Page 1

\$1million) – Bridge Work  
 • MBE Supplier of the Year Class II (\$1-\$10 million) – Consumer & Market Insights

• MBE Supplier of the Year Class III (\$10 - \$50 million) – Link America

• MBE Supplier of the Year Class IV (\$50 million plus) – Total Technical Services

In addition to the MBE Supplier awards, recognition was also given in the areas of *Buying Entity Advocate of the Year*, *Buying Entity Buyer of the Year*, *Buying Entity Volunteer of the Year*, *Executive Advocate of the Year*, *MBE Advocate of the Year*, *MBE Supplier of the Year*, *MBE Construction Company of the Year*, *MBE Volunteer of the Year*, *Construction Buying Entity of the Year*, *Public Sector of the Year* and *Corporation of the Year*

"These awards are noteworthy because of the challenging economic times," said Dennis Miller, Chairman of Board of The Council and Senior Vice President, Controller for JC Penney. "We really appreciate and applaud the firms and individuals who received these honors," he said. "These firms believe in excellence, shown a commitment to minority business utilization and minority businesses have succeeded because of their commitment. They all have shown 'excellence' is the model."

Companies are nominated by Council member-

ship – minority businesses by corporations and corporations and public agencies by minority firms for the E awards. Winners are announced the night of the event. The following are the additional companies and individuals who received awards:

- Corporation of the Year – American Airlines
- Public Sector of the Year – City of Dallas
- Executive Buying Entity Advocate of the Year – Donna Weaver Erhardt, Verizon

• Buying Entity Advocate of the Year – Sheri Macko, American Airlines

• Buying Entity Volunteer of the Year – Susan Newman, Comerica Bank

• MBE Volunteer of the Year – Stanley Tee, Batteries Plus

• Minority Business Enterprise Advocate of the Year – Royalyn Reid, Consumer & Market Insights

• Buying Entity Buyer of the Year – Pat Currin, Texas Instruments

• Construction Buying Entity of the Year – Hensel Phelps Construction

Several Mega Deals were also noted at the event. Those achievements represent contracts over \$25 million.

Luminant Generation Company, a unit of Energy Future Holdings, entered a five year contract worth \$48 million with HOLTEC International, for its Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant Dry Cask Services

in Glen Rose, Texas. Luminant noted that minority owned HOLTEC provided the best overall solution of the NRC requirements for its storage of spent fuel.

A 13 year contract for the performance of various facilities related construction projects that involve telecommunication equipment worth over \$25 million was entered into by Phillips/May Corporation and Beck.

An estimated 465 Alcatel-Lucent employees were transferred to Goodman Network in an agreement valued over \$60 million to enhance Goodman's ability to provide expanded Engineering, Optimization and Integration services and design capabilities. As a result of the deal, Goodman Network is scheduled to complete over 40,000 engineering jobs in 2010.

Collegiate Development Services has partnered with Texas A&M and Midwestern State Universities on two deals over \$25 million to provide university apartments for the institutions. Collegiate Development constructed over 250 units and 428 beds at Texas A&M inclusive of full-size kitchen with appliances, furnished living room and bedrooms. At MSU, the company developed three buildings with 250 beds complete with a community center.

Link America will provide Fujitsu Network Communications warehousing

and distribution services for its Optical Networking Platform products in an agreement over \$25 million. Link America will work on Fujitsu's AT&T contract.


Azteca-Omega Group entered into three Mega construction deals worth a combined total of \$264 million. Those deals include the terminal development program at DFW Interna-

tional Airport (\$170 million); DART Green Line (\$54 million); and Parkland Health & Hospital System (\$40 million). The company will perform various construction services to the three entities.

"The dinner was a great opportunity to showcase our members – corporate and minority – and their individual and collective

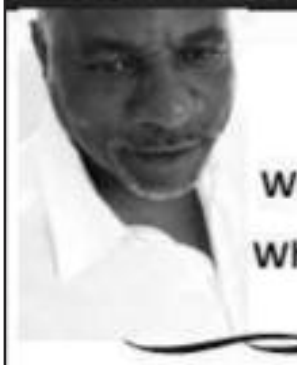
commitment to business growth. This truly signifies the importance of minority businesses to the Dallas and Fort Worth area," said Margo J. Posey, President and CEO of the Council. "It is this recognition that showcases that these companies are continuing to make a difference in our economy."

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# New Medicare billing system part of Small Business Lending Act

(NDG Wire) According to reports, the Small Business Lending Act signed into law this past June includes an anti-fraud provision that will require Medicare to do more to prevent fraud.

"Medicare fraud has been a problem for far too long," notes Alan Weinstein, insurance broker at @ ( <http://www.Medicare-SupplementPlans.com> ). "CMS uses an outdated billing system which I understand actually helps to facilitate over \$60 billion in Medicare fraud annually."

Under the new provision, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be required to stop its long-held policy of approving claims without first verifying them.

Part of what the law implements is new Medicare billing software with a predictive modeling component, a type of analytical

technology that already has been adopted in the credit card industry to identify potentially fraudulent bills. Medicare billing contractors will be required to use the new technology for hospitalization and outpatient services, which make up the bulk of Medicare's spending. It is estimated that predictive modeling could save the government more than \$20 billion a year.

CMS is required to launch a competitive bidding process by January 2011 for predictive modeling software contractors and then begin actually implementing the technology by July in the 10 states with the highest Medicare fraud rates. U.S. Senator George LeMieux (R-FL), who coauthored the Small Business Lending Act and wrote the Medicare anti-fraud initiative, has a personal interest since Florida is one of the states where Medicare

fraud rates are the highest.

After the first year of implementation, Health and Human Services will be required to submit a report to Congress detailing the actual savings on Medicare fraud. If the savings are substantial, some of that money could be used to implement the technology in 10 more states.

The Small Business Lending Act is intended to free up credit so small business owners can grow their operations, hire more workers, and help improve our economy, or so say those who supported its implementation.

What many small business owners face is the lack of available loans from major banks who are currently withholding monies. This Act is intended to increase the number of businesses who qualify for funds while it increases the maximum amount of mo-

ney that the Small Business Administration (SBA) can lend. However, detractors indicate that the bill does little to correct the unfriendly policies and that tax cuts and repealing

measures that increase costs will do more to end the recession.

Also included in the bill along with the Medicare anti-fraud initiative is the export promotion provision.

This provision is intended to increase the activities and staffing of the Department of Commerce in carrying out its mission to promote U.S. Exports.

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## REFERENDUM, continued from Page 3

met considerable resistance to its attempt to effectively colonize the Sudan as "The Mahdi" - Muhammad Ahmad bin Abd Allah - led a militaristic Muslim revival.

But ultimately the colonizers prevailed. Sudan was administered by Britain and Egypt as "Anglo-Egyptian Sudan" from 1899 until 1956, when Sudan became independent.

Like many African countries, modern day Sudan is more of a place than a nation, containing several ethnic groups lumped together during the colonial era to facilitate European territorial claims. Historical national groups existing within present day Sudan include the Dinka, Nuba, and Nuer peoples, among others.

While the Organization of African Unity opposed the break-up of African countries during the early days of independence, I suspect that some break-ups, done rationally, could

actually facilitate African Unity by ending conflict that results from forcing one ethnic group to live under the dominance of another. "Good fences make good neighbors." A well-planned disintegration of the current artificial Sudan state, eventually followed by economic affiliation patterned after the East African Community (comprised of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi) or The Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS, comprised of 15 West African countries), might generate more working unity than exists presently.

A stickler, however, would be who controls oil reserves. The CPA stipulates that North and South

equally split proceeds from oil produced in the South, but the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement - the South's leading liberation organization - has persistently accused the North of paying less than 50%, according to the Sudan Tribune.

Meanwhile, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has expressed the U.S. government's belief that full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides the best chance to prevent a return to conflict in Sudan.

Jesus Christ said, *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.* (Matthew 5:9). Let's pray for peace in Sudan.

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# TWC Names Dow Chemical Company Texas Employer of the Year

*Texas workforce boards also recognized for outstanding performance*

(NDG Wire) The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced Dow Chemical Co. (Dow) as its 2010 Texas Workforce Employer of the Year. The company was honored at the 14th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held November 17-19 in Dallas. Dow was chosen from among five exemplary finalists for its collaboration with the Texas workforce system, and for supporting the agency's goal of ensuring that both employers and workers have the resources and skills Texas needs to remain competitive in the 21st century.

"I applaud Dow Chemical for setting the bar high, and demonstrating that innovation, collaboration and dedication lead to a winning formula," said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. "Through its continued partnership with Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast and Brazosport College, Dow's involvement in workforce development is fundamental to growing a highly skilled workforce and creating jobs for their region."

Nominated by Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast



(Gulf Coast), Dow has played a vital role in the communities of the Texas Gulf Coast region for decades. Its partnership with the Brazoria County Petrochemical Council and Workforce Solutions produced a successful pilot project to develop a program on Applied Instrumentation, a high-demand skill set for the engineering industry and for Dow technicians. This program was replicated and expanded to include 13 more training modules and five additional companies.

"With more than 6,500 employees in Texas, Dow Chemical recognizes that a highly trained workforce is its greatest asset," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "We congratulate Dow Chemical for its commitment to its workers and to the communities it serves."

Dow dedicates resour-

ces to a TWC project that matches industry jobs to military job descriptions to help returning veterans secure employment. The company employed 40 youth in the Summer Jobs for Youth and Energy Venture Camp programs and works with local communities and Brazosport College to address science, technology, engineering, and math workforce educational goals.

"Texas Workforce Solutions recognizes Dow Chemical as its Employer of the Year because of its leadership and innovation, and for the contributions made by the thousands of individual members that comprise this

exceptional company," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar.

Each of the 28 local workforce development boards recognized a Local Employer of Excellence at the conference. The award honors an employer that is actively involved with Texas Workforce Solutions and has made a positive impact on employers, workers and the community.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas received the Service to Business Award which recognizes a local workforce development board that demonstrates innovative approaches to meeting employer needs through recruiting, hiring, training, and upgrading employee skills.

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Contract 6218-58-001 for REFLECTORIZED PAVEMENT MARKINGS in TARRANT County  
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Contract 6219-39-001 for PREFABRICATED PAVEMENT MARKINGS in TARRANT County  
will be opened on January 05, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$781,855.41.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

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Phone: 512-416-2540

#### Dist/Div Office(s)

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Our Theatre & Arts will present *King of King* at Story Elementary. "Behold, a King will reign in righteousness and princes will rule with justice."  
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All Senior Saints are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the Newsome Center on Am-scott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

**December 18**  
Join us for *The Christmas Story*. Scripture: Matthew 6:26. Call the church for details.

**December 19, 11 a.m.**  
You're invited to our Christmas Cantata as we worship and praise God. Jesus is the reason for the season.  
**Dr. Charles Wattley**  
Senior Pastor  
1308 Wilcox Street  
McKinney TX 75069  
972-542-6178  
www.saintmarkbc.com

**SHILOH MBC IN PLANO**  
On Going  
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Mid-Week Service as we praise and worship God for His blessings.  
**Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.**  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
www.smbcplano.org

**THE NEW LIGHT CHURCH**  
On Going

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm for Girls in Action meeting. Girls 6-17 are encouraged to explore Christ and the Word of God.  
**Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor**  
9314 Elam Road  
Dallas, TX 75217  
214-391-3430  
www.newlightchurch.com

**WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
On Going

Join us in prayer each morning, Monday - Friday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. Thursdays, 7 p.m. You're invited to hear anointed men and women of God bring the Word of God.  
**Dr. Gregory Voss,**  
Senior Pastor  
2765 Trinity Mills Road Building 300  
Carrollton, TX 75006  
214-514-9147

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10:50 Edgewood - Allen, TX

Wednesday Night Live  
Word Prayer Service / Bible Study  
7:00 PM  
200 Belmont Dr. Allen, TX

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10:00 am  
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(Sundays 9 am - 10 pm)  
Hear Pastor Sam on: "Truth Made Simple"  
KGGR 1040 AM, Monday - Friday @ 5:25 pm - 5:30 pm



# A 'Spirit of God' Christian

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father. The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."* **Romans 8:14-16 (KJV)**

Joshua and Caleb are described in Bible Scripture as men who had a different spirit. They were two of the 12 spies sent into the Promised Land to determine if it could be taken, as God had promised it to them.

The other ten gave a bad report that instilled fear in the people, which ultimately caused a rebellion. This re-

sulted in an entire generation dying in the desert.

Joshua and Caleb were the only two who were led by the Spirit of God, versus the spirit of fear. They were the only ones to enter the Promised Land from their generation.

Are you an individual led by the Spirit of God? The verse above tells us that those who are led by the Spirit are sons of God. *"But My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it."* **Numbers 14:24 (KJV)** Caleb was a Spirit of God man. The Spirit led him. He was not led by fear.

Many believers have failed to enter into their own Promised Land because they

have failed to be led by the Spirit of God rather than by fear of the unknown. Fear prevents Christians from entering into what God has promised for them. God has reserved an inheritance for Christians that is exceedingly good. *"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"* **Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)**

God described the Promised Land as a land of milk and honey. Christians own Promised Land is the same, a land of milk and honey. But they must be led by the Spirit of God to enter in. Christians cannot be led by fear, reason and analysis, or even skill. The Spirit must lead them.

God's plans are bigger than Christians could ever imagine. He will always

honor His promises. His love shows no bounds and He always look at the heart. However, it is good for Christians to remember that God will discipline Christians when they stray and the Holy Spirit will convict the heart and speak to the mind to keep Christians in line with God's purpose.

**Something to Ponder: Get B.A.D. Not MAD** -- I saw a man with an acronym on his shirt that had **"I'm B.A.D."**; being curious I asked the man, "What does B.A.D. stand for? He said:

**B.A.D.** stands for **"Blessed And Delivered."** That thought stayed with me throughout that day; so I came up with a little advice for the Christian for this Holiday Season and for the rest of your life.

1) When the enemy tries



**Honorees at the CCC, Inc. Scholarship Banquet, L to R: Mr. Joe Pouncy, Principal of Newman Smith High School; Ms. April McCoy, a 1st Team-All State in Golf at Creekview High School; and Mr. Anthony Armstrong, #13, a Wide Receiver for the Washington Redskins NFL Team and a graduate from Newman Smith, all in Carrollton, Texas.**

to attack you, be **B.A.D.** Pray for the enemy!

2) When things don't seem to be going right on your job, be **B.A.D.** Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3) When things are not looking good in your life, be **B.A.D.** Talk to people and

take it to the Lord in prayer.

4) When folks scandalize your name, just be **B.A.D.**; and take it to the Lord in prayer.

Get with somebody that you can be **B.A.D.** with and praise the Lord.

## THEATRE, continued from Page 10

Huggins' Jazz Course 101, an audience favorite, concludes the performance. Audience members will especially enjoy the elegance of Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Principal Dancer, Nycole Ray, in a new ballet by local choreographer Bruce Woods.

"Dallas Black Dance Theatre's art continues to excel and be a cornerstone of the arts community of

Dallas. This season marks 34 years of artistic excellence," said Ann Williams, Dallas Black Dance Theatre founder/artistic director. "Audiences will want to come and see Dallas Black Dance Theatre again."

The December Winter Series hosts five performances from Dec. 8 through Sunday, Dec. 12 at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Dee and Charles

Wyly Theatre.

The series will include a new and improved Wine Down Wednesday performance series, sponsored by Jean Baptiste "Tad" Adoue III Fund of The Dallas Foundation featuring pre-performance wine reception and performances by local artists in the sixth floor Patron Lounge followed by a post-performance conversation with Dallas Black


Dance Theatre.

Wine Down Wednesday and the new Thursday Corporate Appreciation evenings include an earlier performance time of 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m. with the performance series wrapping up with a Sunday matinee performance at 2:30 p.m.


Tickets start at \$10 and are on sale at www.dbdt.

com or by calling 214-880-0202. Season subscriptions

and group rates are available, call 214-871-2390.



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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday ..... Closed

**Contact Info** Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church  
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8:45am & 11:00am

Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30pm

# EXPERT, continued from Page 1

tional opportunities to provide samples to friends of friends and total strangers," Berkley said.

"Results confirmed what I started to realize. There was a demand for my handcrafted cheesecakes. After receiving encouragement from my husband, I decided to turn my love of baking cheesecakes into a business. My clientele is steadily growing and includes among loyal individuals, organizations, companies, and a restaurant."

She's even now in the final round to become an NFL sponsored vendor for the Super Bowl in February. As part of the process, Berkley had to certify her business as minority owned and attend NFL Emerging Business workshops.

Berkley was also selected in June as one of a few minority owned business to participate in the "by invitation only" Super Bowl XLV Tradeshow.

This opportunity allowed

her to share Top That Cheesecake™ with approximately 300 NFL staff, NFL purchasing entities, and NFL sponsors.

If selected before February 2011, she will be an official NFL-contracted emerging business, catapulting her Oak Cliff venture onto the worldwide stage.

"The process of becoming an NFL Approved Emerging Business has taught me to be a networker by providing opportunities to establish contacts with other minority-women owned businesses," Berkley said.

"It has also given Top That Cheesecake™ exposure and additional credibility."

For now, Berkley is gearing up for the holiday season, fielding cheesecake requests from residents across the DFW area. Between now and Christmas, Berkley will make and deliver hundreds of cheesecakes. With toppings and flavors such as Turtle Creek Petite (chocolate,



caramel and toasted pecans), Tripple S (Sunny South-Side Sweet Potato), and Strawberry Dream (strawberries drizzled with white chocolate) Top That Cheesecake™ can meet all cheesecake lovers' desires. But why are her cheesecakes so special?

"What sets Top That Cheesecake™ apart from its competitors is evident from clients' reactions," Berkley explained.

"Some have raved that they do not eat cheesecake but after trying a sample of mine they are among my biggest fans. Unlike the usual heaviness of regular cheesecake, I am told that Top That

Cheesecake, entices with its light creamy texture. Sized to meet any dessert need from literally the diameter of a quarter to a 12 inch, Top That Cheesecakes are custom designed to meet each client's needs. My goal is to exceed clients' expectations, so communication and customer service are a large part of what I do."

Berkley is the mother of two daughters who attend St. Philips School in South Dallas. She is also the wife of Demarron Berkley, an attorney in the DFW area. To learn more visit [www.topthatcheesecake.com](http://www.topthatcheesecake.com).

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**Contact Information: 972-423-6695**  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

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**Wednesday Night Service**  
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