Established 1894
Fear God, Tell the Truth & Make Money • The Oldest Black Publication West of the Mississippi • Vol. 116 No. 30 • February 12, 2007

U.S. Labor Department to Open New Job Corps Site in Ottumwa

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Among the criteria in selecting sites for Job Corps centers is a plan that incorporates strong community support and cooperation with state and local agencies, community colleges, local school districts and civic groups.

“Job Corps is the nation’s largest and most comprehensive residential, education and job training program for at-promise youth,” said Job Corps Director Esther R. Johnson. “These centers not only benefit young people in need of help, but local employers as well. Each year, Job Corps deploys to communities around this country young people who have found their place in society, young people who are ready for the workforce of the 21st century and young people who are ready to change their communities for the better.”

Since its inception in 1964, Job Corps has opened the door to opportunity for more than two million disadvantaged young people ages 16-24.

Iowans step up to a healthy lifestyle

February is American Heart Month, and is an ideal time for Iowans to take the steps to living a healthier lifestyle. Nearly three-fourths of all Iowans have one or more cardiovascular-related risk factors: diabetes, elevated blood pressure, high cholesterol, current smoker or overweight. The American Lung Association’s 801 Grand Power Climb is an ideal event to start the journey to a healthy life.

On February 25 hundreds of Iowans will climb the 41 flights of stairs at 801 Grand and not only exercise their legs, but also their heart and lungs. Participants will take the stairs to raise funds to support the American Lung Association’s initiative of cures, clean air, and smoke-free kids.

“The 801 Grand Power Climb is a great chance to do more than get a workout, it is a chance to help those in need, elevate to a healthier lifestyle, and run or walk in honor of a loved one. Participants have different reasons for running or walking, however they are all there to breathe hard to help others breathe easier,” said Micki Sandquist, Director of the American Lung Association of Iowa.

Those interested in participating can register before February 17 at www.lungia.org and take the steps towards healthy heart and lungs. All proceeds will go to support the Iowa chapter of the American Lung Association.

National Bar Association Archives transferred to Drake University

By Dana L. Boone

Legal professionals here and across the country gathered to honor the work of five African-American trailblazers and the enduring legal association they founded in 1925 in Des Moines.

A celebration held on Feb. 1 at Drake University honored trailblazers, Samuel Joe Brown, Charles Howard, James Morris, Gertrude Rush and George Woodson, who founded the National Bar Association.

The brave Iowa lawyers, along with seven others from neighboring states, founded the association because they were denied admittance to the American Bar Association based on their race.

The event also marked the dedication of the National Bar Association Archives Room at Drake’s Opperman Law Library. The room houses a collection of more than 300 documents, photographs and programs devoted to the founding of the association.

A $15,000 donation from Drake University’s Branch of the NAACP helped create the Archives Room, a Drake official said.

“The event is one of the greatest historical moments for the city of Des Moines, Drake, the National Bar Association and the Iowa NBA,” said Vicky Long-Hill, president of the Iowa Affiliate of the NBA, who spoke at the event. “One of the greatest historical moments for Iowa as well, and it was phenomenal.”

More than 80 people attended the celebration at Drake, including Linnies Finney Jr., president of the NBA. Other speakers included the founders’ descendants: Howard’s son, Lawrence Howard and one of Morris’s grandsons, William, a Des Moines lawyer.

“It was a great, great day,” said Drake University Law School Dean David Walker.

“Long-Hill said it’s phenomenal that the artifacts are located in the city of the organization’s birth and that anyone can visit the room and learn more about it. “For Drake to take the lead in making

NBA: Continued on page 9

Photo by J.C. Kearn

On February Dean Walker (right) welcomed a new chapter in NBA history.

Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, speaks to reporters during a women’s conference hosted by U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, left, Aug. 19, 2002, in West Des Moines. Chao said women in America have more job opportunities than ever before and are increasingly shaping the future of the country, but they need to save more money to achieve financial independence in retirement. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

Photo by J.C. Kearn

secretary of state of Iowa

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NBA: Continued on page 9
Technologies, innovations new and old are all around us and ever evolving. We need to begin researching all technologies to find, those that can be assimilated into our plan for economic development.

Last week in part one of this series we talked about the opportunities that are present in this day and age. We now have a chance to close the economic gap by some significant margin, once we become more involved in using technology to produce more revenues for our communities. The fastest growing industry in the world right now is identity theft prevention. Technologies in this industry are being invented everyday, with old or existing technologies being retrofitted for new uses.

Innovation was used by the president in his state of the union address. I would be remiss if I did not use it here. We can look at existing innovations to see what new and practical uses may be developed. George Washington Carver discovered thousands of uses for peanuts and soy beans. Now new uses are being developed from those findings of Dr. Carver at great financial reward for the people and institutions providing the research. This also provides opportunity for us to partner with some of these institutions and people to discover new uses for Dr. Carver’s discoveries, remember this is part of our rich heritage and we should be benefiting from it. I even heard that a black man is putting together a plan to make paper pulp from corn waste and soy glue, now that’s innovation and opportunity along with Technology working, good luck. Just use your imagination and try to solve problems, remembering that one man’s trash is another’s treasure, and we can add value to discarded ideas and inventions. Getting every drop of use and value from every resource that we use as a country will also help save the environment. So give it a try.

Moving toward change, Senator Jack Hatch of Des Moines joined a bipartisan group of 39 state senators who are asking U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to explain how more than 600 Iowa Guard members learned first from family members and the news media that their stay in Iraq will be extended by up to four months.

Hatch also successfully worked to approve $4 million to help veterans buy their first homes and to help in- jured veterans.

“Military families expect their lives to be disrupted by war,” Hatch said. “But it is unacceptable when the government carelessly adds to that disruption and family stress. Guard and Reserve soldiers were told to expect to return in late March or April. They then received word from their families and Iowa news media that plans for the ‘surge’ in Iraq has extended their deployment by four months. It was poorly handled and steps should be taken to prevent a recurrence.”

In a letter to Gates, the bipartisan group of Senators also asked that “all Guard members who have their tours extended due to increased troop levels receive hardship pay to compensate them for the extra time they will spend in Iraq” and that Guard troops receive support reintegrating into civilian life, which is similar to that provided to active duty troops.

“Members of the Guard and Reserve often perform the same duties and are exposed to the same risks as regular active duty soldiers,” Hatch said. “The same hardship pay for extended deployments should be given, and providing them with the same post-combat support services that other soldiers receive makes good sense.”

Early in the session, Hatch had drawn attention to the fact that a program to help veterans buy their first home in Iowa had run out of money. On Monday, the Iowa Senate unani mously voted to provide $2 million toward the effort and also approved an additional $2 million in grants to help injured veterans.

“We are working together to support the troops,” Hatch said. “I hope we continue to help those who are serving their country.”

The complete letter to Secretary Gates and the list of signers can be found at www.iowasanatedemocrats.org/issues/veterans

To contact Senator Hatch during the week, call the Senate switchboard at 515-243-3371. On weekends he can be reached at home at 515-243-2033. To e-mail Senator Hatch or to subscribe to his weekly newsletter, write to jack.hatch@legis.state.ia.us.
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to honor Willie Glanton

The nation’s oldest Greek-lettered organization founded for African-American males will be honoring Mrs. Willie Glanton, The Zeta Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., will be celebrating its 100th year centennial celebration with their annual Black and Gold Ball on Saturday, February 17, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel, 700 Locust Avenue in Des Moines. Social Hour begins at 6pm with dinner being served at 7pm.

Ms. Glanton is the 1st African-American elected to the Iowa State legislature and the 1st female Asst. Polk County Attorney. She is also one of the founding members of The Links, Inc of Des Moines. She is also an active member of the Des Moines Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

DJ Mo Smoove from Omaha’s Hot107.7FM will provide this year’s entertainment and play all of your favorite songs. DJ Smoove is part of the All-Star DJ’s of the Midwest!

Tickets to this semi-formal historic event are $40/person and are tax deductible. Tables of 10 are available for $400. Tickets must be purchased by Tuesday, February 13, 2007, as no tickets will be sold at the door! A cash bar will be on hand. For more information please or to purchase tickets contact Theo Lillard at 515-865-3006 or Brandon Winston at 515-281-3170. Proceeds from this event go to scholarships for Central Iowa area African-American males that attend a four-year college or university.

AKA Cotillion preparation underway

Iota Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has begun pre-ball activities for participants of their Annual Scholarship Cotillion. This year’s theme is “Excellence in Academics, Making Your Dreams Come True: Debutantes and Beaus of Distinction.” The Scholarship Cotillion is a memorable evening that celebrates the achievements of minority high school seniors from Des Moines and surrounding suburbs. In keeping with this legacy, the 2007 Scholarship Cotillion will celebrate the uniqueness and accomplishments of each senior presented.

This outstanding event takes place on Saturday April 7, 2007, at 7:00 pm at the Airport Holiday Inn on Fleur Drive.

Workshops have been conducted for the Debutantes and Beaus consisting of an essay writing workshop, college admissions and financial aid. The participants will also participate in several community service projects, an etiquette workshop and a fun night activity. Dance rehearsals for the participants begin Sunday, February 25 from 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm at the Willkie House.

Participants are currently soliciting ads for the souvenir cotillion memory book. Scholarships are awarded based on the highest cumulative grade point average, overall participant, outstanding community service and the winner of the essay contest based upon the program theme.

The Scholarship Cotillion is a formal event and requires the appropriate attire. Tickets are priced at $20 per person.

For any additional information please contact Kim L. Jackson, 2007 Scholarship Chairperson at 248-7508.

PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you are interested in joining a parent support group to advocate for our children call Jonathan R. Narcisse at: 515-280-8092 or email jon-narcisse@mchsi.com.
Celebrate heart month, learn about your risks

February is American Heart Month and a good time to learn about heart health, especially for women. One in three adults in the United States suffer from a form of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and, on average, CVD kills one American every 35 seconds. It is the most serious health threat for women yet only a small percentage consider it a big risk. One in 2.6 women’s deaths are from CVD, while only one in 30 deaths is from breast cancer, according to the American Heart Association. Coronary heart disease is the number one killer of women over 25. Sixty-one percent of fatal strokes affect women.

Not only does CVD touch even more women than men, it looks a bit different too. Men and women have different heart attack symptoms. Men report chest discomfort while women describe it as pressure and are more likely to have symptoms that might include nausea, cold sweats, vomiting and back, neck, jaw or arm pain. Nearly 100 percent of women who survive a heart attack report having unusual symptoms the month before the attack. Seventy percent reported excessive fatigue, 47.8 percent had sleep disturbances and 42 percent had shortness of breath. The problem with that is they are nonspecific symptoms but they may identify a need for a full health workup," explained Daniel Deavers, Ph.D., professor of physiology and pharmacology at Des Moines University.

Also, women are more likely to be sent home from an emergency room untreated if they are under 55 and report shortness of breath as a main symptom. Women tend to be older before they get heart failure, according to Dr. Deavers. The American Heart Association (AHA) says post-menopausal women are two or three times more likely to have heart disease than a pre-menopausal women. Yet, women under 50 are twice as likely to die from a heart attack as a man is.

Dr. Deavers also says women are less likely to have coronary artery disease discovered via a cardiac catheter test and are under represented in medical studies. That’s why it’s so important that women take charge of their health and be more aware of their risks. Age, race and heredity play a large part in risk and that can’t be controlled. The following is a list from the AHA of factors that can be changed:

- High blood pressure. This condition can increase your risk of heart attack and stroke.
- Smoking. If you smoke, your risk of developing coronary heart disease is two to four times that of nonsmokers. Smoking is also a major preventable cause of stroke.
- High cholesterol. The higher your total blood cholesterol, the greater your risk of coronary heart disease and stroke.
- Physical inactivity. Lack of physical activity increases your risk of coronary heart disease and stroke.
- Obesity or overweight. If you have excess body fat — especially at the waist — you’re more likely to develop heart disease or have a stroke.
- Diabetes. Having diabetes isn’t something that can be controlled but you can control your blood sugar levels. Uncontrolled blood sugar increases your risk of heart disease and stroke.

For more information, visit americanheart.org or www.goredforwomen.org.

For best bang increase tax on tobacco by a buck

A commentary by Dr. George Weiner

It is time to increase the tax on cigarettes in Iowa by $1 a pack. Doing so would be among the most important public health measures ever implemented in Iowa. It would save thousands of lives.

Study after study has shown that fewer teens take up smoking when cigarettes are more expensive. The quit rate among teens and adults increases as the price of cigarettes goes up. Over time, states with high tobacco taxes and strong antismoking programs have decreased rates of tobacco-related disease, and this in turn results in a healthier workforce and lower health-care costs.

The tobacco industry is aware of the impact cigarette price has on youth smoking. It knows people who don’t get addicted to nicotine in their teens are unlikely to take up the habit. That’s why the tobacco industry invests so much energy to block an increase in the price of cigarettes. They do not hold up to careful examination.

You will hear that border towns will be hurt. That’s because people who don’t get addicted to nicotine in their teens are unlikely to take up the habit. That’s why the tobacco industry invests so much energy to block an increase in the price of cigarettes. They do not hold up to careful examination.

You will hear that border towns will be hurt. You will hear that we should not increase the tax on cigarettes because they are a tax on tobacco by a buck. You will hear that a smaller increase in the tax will achieve the desired goal. Study after study has demonstrated that the higher the price of cigarettes, the lower the teen smoking rate, and the greater the health benefit.

You will hear that we should not increase the cigarette tax by $1 because we can’t agree on how to use the resulting revenue. The $1 increase is primarily about the health of our youth, not about generation of revenue. A vigorous discussion about how we should use the resulting revenue should not impact enthusiasm for a $1 increase. My preference would be that a significant portion of the new revenue be used for programs that have a direct benefit to the health and well-being of Iowa youth.

At Iowa Health – Des Moines, we believe “what’s inside us” is what makes us different. Our workforce is the strength behind our proud tradition of providing quality health care. And we know that our success is due to our outstanding workforce of dedicated employees who have a common mission to improve the health of our communities through healing, caring and teaching. No matter what your area of interest, you’ll find plenty of opportunities at our hospitals and more than 35 primary care physician clinics throughout central Iowa. And as one of Des Moines’ largest employers, we offer a flexible benefit package and competitive salary.

If you’re interested in joining our team, visit our Web site at www.iowahhealth.org.

For more information visit iowabystander.com.

THE DIFFERENCE IS INSIDE US

At Iowa Health – Des Moines, our employees are our most valuable asset. Our organization is committed to providing an environment in which all employees can contribute fully, where all valued and respected, where all can achieve their goals.

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For more information visit iowabystander.com.

IOWA HEALTH

Methodist • Lutheran • Blank

~ Joseph Pulitzer
Target to pay $775,000 for racial harassment

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has settled a lawsuit against Target Corporation for racial harassment at a Springfield, Pennsylvania store. The suit involved 13 African American employees who were subjected to a hostile work environment due to racial harassment. The settlement includes a $775,000 payment to the employees, remedial action, and training for managers and supervisors on equal employment opportunity policies.

The EEOC charged that Target violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act by creating and condoning a racially hostile work environment. The harassment included inappropriate comments and verbal abuse based on race. When one of the employees objected to this treatment, he was allegedly retaliated against, leading to his resignation. The decree includes training and other remedies to prevent such discrimination in the future.

Iowa Bystander Mission

The responsibility of the Black press is to empower the Black community through meaningful communication and leadership, and to keep the Black community informed of those issues most vital to us as a people.

Iowa Bystander

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Publisher • Jerald Brantley, Sr.
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Guidelines For Submitting Copy:

Iowa Bystander is published weekly. Copy must be typed. Editorials, news items, and press releases should be 500 words or less. Public service announcements, thank you notes, etc., should be 300 words or less. All copy is subject to the editorial policy of Iowa Bystander.

Pictures submitted with articles become the property of Iowa Bystander unless otherwise specified at the time of submission. All photos should clearly identify those in the picture, their order, and the relevance of the photo. Finally, all submitted copy or photos should contain a phone number and the name of the contact person who can be reached if questions arise.

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“We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”

-- Mary McLeod Bethune

NAACP calls for warrant limits after police kill elderly woman

The group also called on police to require officers to receive sensitivity training, for the Atlanta Police Department to launch a goodwill initiative in the city’s low-income, high-crime neighborhoods and for a citizens review board to be created to review incidents like the Nov. 21 shooting.

Kathryn Johnston died and three officers were wounded in the shootout during a no-knock search for drugs in Johnston’s northwest Atlanta home. Family members say Johnston was 92 years old; authorities said she was 88.

When officers raided her home without first announcing their presence, police say Johnston fired a handgun before officers returned fire, killing her.

The FBI and Georgia Bureau of Investigation are investigating the incident at the request of Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington.

The NAACP recommendations call for police to conduct advance surveillance of homes where they plan to use no-knock warrants. They also suggest that judges reserve the warrants for extreme cases.

White, pastor of Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church near Johnston’s home, said she appears to have acted in self-defense, thinking her home was being robbed.

“We have got to understand the fear that people live in in these neighborhoods,” he said. “Anybody in here, I think, would have fired if you’ve got anything to fire.”

“I commend the NAACP for their input and involvement on how the Atlanta Police Department conducts business,” Pennington said in a statement. “Even though we are currently reviewing our internal policies and procedures, I do not oppose any measure that will strengthen our relationship with the community. I look forward to working together to reclaim the public’s trust in our hard working men and women.”

White said the suggestions will be delivered to Mayor Shirley Franklin (pictured), Atlanta’s city council and Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears.

He also said he has petitioned members of the Georgia Legislature for changes in the way no-knock warrants are used. Sen. Vincent Fort, D-Atlanta, said he is working on legislation, but wasn’t ready to provide details on Monday.

“Suffice it to say it would be a restriction on no-knock warrants so they can’t be used as a catch-all to go into anybody’s house without warning,” Fort said.
Iowa Afterschool Alliance to meet

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance will host a grassroots advocacy training on behalf of afterschool programs statewide. This hands-on training, which will address all levels of experience with advocacy, will be held at The United Way Human Services Campus at 1111 9th St. in Des Moines from 9:30am to noon on Tuesday, February 13th. Refreshments will be provided.

The afterschool movement is gaining considerable steam this year, and your help is needed to demonstrate the benefits of afterschool to policymakers. The Alliance is eager to share with you our comprehensive policy agenda and funding recommendations. We will also give you practical tools and information that are easy to use with elected officials and other policy makers who make decisions about afterschool, and how to get the most impact for your time spent.

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is a coalition of organizations, programs, and individuals who promote supportive policies for afterschool, sustainable funding for afterschool programs, and a culture of high-quality across all types of programs. For more information, please visit www.iowafterschoolalliance.org. This training is provided courtesy of an advocacy grant made to the Alliance by the United Way of Central Iowa.

We hope that you can join us as an active participant in advocating for afterschool. Because afterschool keeps kids safe, helps working families, and supports student achievement, we need your assistance to make sure that key audiences are educated about afterschool and brought in to shape its future in Iowa.

Please RSVP to Rachel Lynch at 515-243-2000 or rlynch@sppg.com.

States are not moral agents, people are, and can impose moral standards on powerful institutions.

-- Noam Chomsky

Is your company serious about diversity in the workplace? If so advertise your jobs in The Iowa Bystander & El Comunicador!
BET’s Jeff Johnson to appear at Drake

Jeff Johnson, host of BET Channel’s “The Jeff Johnson Chronicles,” will present “Construction Before Destruction with Cousin Jeff” at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at Drake University in Parents Hall North, Olmsted Center, 29th Street and University Avenue. The event was organized by Drake’s Coalition of Black Students in recognition of Black History Month.

In his programming, Johnson creates intergenerational dialogue between civil rights leaders and the hip-hop generation. His lifestyle consulting firm, Truth is Power, specializes in leadership and curriculum development, media strategy and social branding about issues related to race, politics, popular culture and socio-economics.

“The Jeff Johnson Chronicles” addresses issues relevant to young people in urban America, providing a newer venue to engage youth in current affairs and issues in a way that is not seen since BET’s highly successful and groundbreaking forum “Teen Summit.” Johnson was the only African American reporter to receive an exclusive interview with Africa’s first female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Liberia.

“This is a great opportunity to educate the campus on all of the great accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history,” said Deidre Howard, student organizer and member of the Coalition of Black Students.

Black History Month will also include several forums featuring Drake students, alumni and Des Moines community members. “Am I Black Enough?,” a panel discussion that will address how to define blackness, will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, on Pomerantz Stage, Olmsted Center. “I Am Not My Hair” will be held Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. in Bulldog Theater, Olmsted Center. A lecture titled “Does Racism Still Exist?” will be presented at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, on Pomerantz Stage, Olmsted Center.

Members of the Coalition of Black Students will prepare home-cooked soul food to be offered free of charge for the public at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Black Cultural Center, 1149 28th St.

Mary S. Theroith was born Mary S. Nix on July 2, 1938 in Tchula, Mississippi to Harry Nix and Augustine Nix-Cobb. She was the only child born of this union, but she was not without siblings. Mary was the proud oldest sister to 6 brothers and 4 sisters. She treasured her position as auntie to all of them by inspiring them and providing a means for each of them to pursue a better life away from Mississippi.

Mary’s motto was, “Don’t tell me what I can’t do!” Mary’s life was a testament of perseverance, determination, accomplishment, excellence, selflessness, and caring. In her early years in Tchula, she worked hard chopping cotton and picking pecans in the summers. During her school years, she excelled in all academic subjects and continued her lifelong love of learning.

She married Robert Lee Berr when her daughter, LaShawn, was a newborn. To her union with Robert was born Robert III.

Robert and Mary parted amicably, and Mary relocated to Waterloo, Iowa for a fresh start. With every blessing comes an opportunity and she received a double dose of both with a new job as a housekeeper and a new husband. Mary married Kenneth Earl Theroith on November 25, 1979. To this union were born 2 identical twins, Darnell & Parnell and Kendra & Syreeta.

They were later divorced, but remained the best of friends.

Always in pursuit of higher education, Mary went to Hawkeye Institute of Technology and earned her GED and her business certification. But she didn’t stop there. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Human Services, a master’s degree in Social Work, and was in the process of completing her doctoral degree in Leisure Services, accomplishing all of this as a single mother of five.

Mary never failed to show those around her that they were capable of accomplishing anything and she provided a means for them to do so. As the director of the Martin Luther King Center, she produced academic programs for GED equivalence and college credit. Dear to her heart were the youth summer programs, senior citizen enrichment programs, and her programs to help single mothers become self-sufficient.

She was the consummate community activist always dressed to impress with a Louis Vuitton bag, Barberry shades, stilettos with dimples and a smile.

Mary departed this life on Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 10:45 p.m. She is preceded by 2 infant siblings; her beloved daughter, LaShawn; her grandmother, Mamie Nix; her sister, Eudina Nix, all of Tchula, MS, and her brother, Harry Nix of Las Vegas, NV.

Mary leaves to cherish her memory, her parents; 5 sons: Robert, Darnell and Parnell, 2 daughters: Kendra and Syreeta; her “special son,” Parnell II “Little P;” her grandson, Torkon; her granddaughters: Aryan, Iakia, Darinja, Jada, Tyanna, and Paris all of Waterloo, IA; 5 brothers: Alvin Nix (Shelby) of Las Vegas, NV; and Donald Lee Nix (Teresa), Tim Nix, and Marlon Nix (Zaleta) of Waterloo, IA, and Damien Cobblins of Chicago, IL; 3 sisters: Jeanette Nix, Kim Baker (William) and Amanda Provost of Waterloo, IA; her sister-in-law, Jacqueline Nix of Las Vegas, NV; and Dorothy Turner, who she called her “other” mother, in addition to a host of relatives, dear friends, and colleagues who will miss her dearly.

In an article written in the Courier honoring her accomplishments, she said, “People say there’s no need to pat yourself on the back. I think that is crap. I need to know I can keep going against all the odds. I have to remain positive...”
this happen and housing the artifacts just speaks volumes as well,” said Long-Hill.

The law school’s modest collection of documents received a boost when the Des Moines Public Library gave its collection of documents to Drake. Walker said much of the original collection came from Cleota Proctor Wilbekin of Ohio, a historian with the NBA, who also spoke at the event.

Walker praised the association’s mission, which includes promoting the understanding of the law, serving the community and promoting and securing the civil rights of all people, among others. Walker said Drake was especially thrilled to get the documents because founder Howard and one of his sons graduated from the Law School. Another of Howard’s sons also graduated from Drake, he said.

Walker said the Archives Room is a living legacy where the Iowa NBA and other groups will be able to hold meetings. Walker said he hopes the collection will continue to grow.

A large monument to honor the founders is being planned for the Principal River Walk, said Long-Hill. The project committee includes Long-Hill, attorney Romonda Belcher Ford and Polk County judges Odell McGhee and Don Nickerson.

“The main goal is to insure that the history and legacy is preserved and to make sure that the story is told,” Long-Hill said.

The founding of the association by black lawyers in Des Moines isn’t commonly known. The founders’ reach, however, wasn’t limited to the arena of law in Iowa. They also blazed other trails by establishing civil rights groups, publishing newspapers and serving in the military. Morris purchased the Bystander in 1922 and operated it until 1971.

When the NBA was organized in 1925, there were fewer than 1,000 black lawyers in the nation and about 100 were association members, but today the association is comprised of nearly 40,000 lawyers, judges, educators and law students, according to the NBA’s Web-site.
Unemployment rate hits 4.6 percent high

WASHINGTON (AP) - Wary employers slowed hiring in January, pushing the unemployment rate to a four-month high of 4.6 percent and giving jobseekers a bumpy start to the year.

Still, the Labor Department's employment report on Friday suggested the jobs market remains in solid shape.

The more subdued job creation in January - 111,000 new positions compared with 206,000 in December - is consistent with the expectation that the economy's growth as a whole will moderate. That means the unemployment rate may well slowly climb this year.

"Across a range of employers' behavior, there is some caution. They are wondering how an expected moderation in economic activity will evolve," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. Analysts predict the economy will lose some speed in the January-to-March period following an energetic October-to-December quarter.

Factories, automotive companies, home builders and furniture makers all cut jobs last month, casualties of the housing slump and the ailing auto industry. Hotels and motels, clothing stores, and telecommunications companies also shed jobs.

Those losses tempered job gains at hospitals and nursing homes, bars and restaurants, architectural and engineering firms, accounting and bookkeeping companies, the government and other places of business.

"Businesses were not in the greatest hiring mood," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. Against this backdrop, January's unemployment rate rose from 4.5 percent in December to its highest point since September. Even with the bump-up, though, the seasonally adjusted civilian employment is low by historical standards. During the depths of a recession in the early 1980s, for example, the unemployment rate hit double-digit levels.

The latest employment figures "don't change our view that the job market is still robust. Opportunities still seem to be bright," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank.

Last month's hiring situation affected people in different ways. The jobless rate for Hispanics rose to 5.7 percent, the highest in a year. The jobless rate for blacks fell to 8 percent, the lowest in 51/2 years. The unemployment rate for whites edged up to 4.1 percent, the highest in five months.

The report comes as President Bush, in economic speeches this week, has sought to soothe some workers' anxieties about their ability to keep or find a job in a dynamic economy that puts an increasing emphasis on skills, education and flexibility. Democrats, now in control of Congress, pledge to help the middle class, a group that contend the White House has ignored.

Getting final agreement in Congress on legislation boosting the federal minimum wage from $5.15 to $7.25 an hour is a top priority. The latest employment figures "don't change our view that the job market situation is still robust. Opportunities still seem to be bright," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank.

The average time that the 7 million unemployed people spent in their jobless searches was 16.2 weeks in January, up from 15.9 in December.

Meanwhile, annual updates to the payroll figures going back to 2002 showed that the economy added nearly 1 million more jobs than the government previously estimated. Taking those revised figures into account, Bush created a total of 4.68 million jobs from January 2002 through December 2006. That was considerably more than the 3.74 million new jobs as estimated under the old figures for the same period.

The updated figures also showed that job creation turned out to be stronger last year. For all of 2006, the economy added 2.2 million jobs, or an average of 187,000 positions a month, under the new figures. That was up from an initial estimate of 1.8 million, or 153,000 jobs a month.

Last year's sturdy job growth came as the economy picked up speed.

The economy grew by 3.4 percent in 2006, a two-year high. That performance was impressive, given the ill effects of the housing slump and the troubled auto sector.

Economists, however, predict economic growth will slow this year, which should push up the unemployment rate to 4.9 percent from last year's rate of 4.6 percent, a six-year low.

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Judge orders O.J. Simpson not to spend book advance

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A California judge has ordered Florida resident O.J. Simpson to stop spending money he may have received for his unpublished book, “If I Did It,” about the slayings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Gerald Rosenberg’s ruling on Wednesday extended a restraining order issued last month barring Simpson from spending any earnings from past deals, including books, films, and sports memorabilia.

The order, which was sought by Goldman’s attorney, Yale Galanter, was not immediately returned. Simpson told The Associated Press in November that the advance had already been spent, some of it on tax obligations.

The legal wrangling is the latest in a decade-long battle following a 1997 civil judgment against Simpson that held him liable for the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman. Fred Goldman alleges Simpson is trying to avoid paying the $33.5 million judgment, which has ballooned to about $40 million with interest.

Angela Davis featured at UM Black History Month

Oxford, Miss. (AP) - Nearly four decades have passed since Angela Davis was jailed on charges of plotting a bloody courthouse shootout, allegations that put her on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list and led to a high-profile trial that ended with her acquittal.

Davis was featured speaker on Feb. 9 during Black History Month activities at the University of Mississippi.

Davis was not a member of the Black Panthers, but did work in concert with them on community programs. A former member of the Communist Party, she was charged in 1971 with plotting a bloody courthouse shootout during the trial of three black prisoners accused of killing a prison guard. The allegations landed her on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list.

Since 1991, she has taught in the University of California-Santa Cruz History of Consciousness Department.

Davis graduated with a bachelor’s degree in French in 1965 from Brandeis University. She completed her master’s degree in 1966 at the University of California-San Diego and holds a doctor of philosophy degree from Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.

Free Child Health Clinic

Corinthian Baptist Church
9th & Freeway
3rd Tuesday of Every Month
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Immunizations
Physical Assessments

FREE COUNSELING AVAILABLE
CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING

TOM COATES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
6129 S.W. 63rd STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50321
515-287-6428
FAX 515-287-0430
The Untold Story: Polk County Politics

By Charles Allen Spencer

Part I of a 2 part analysis

In a Des Moines Register article on February 06, 2007 by Jeff Eckhoff, titled ‘Polk County sheriff’s shortfall could cause tax increase,’ I found it very amusing although as a tax payer, it in no way is. Our esteemed sheriff got the taxpayers of Polk County sold on the proposition that we need a new jail granted with the cost of transporting inmates to other locales, including many out to state jails that are built for the sole purpose of profit. In these trying times of crime increase because of the use of illicit drugs and all the scourge that goes with it, we have seen a pattern of increase incarceration and criminal justice system involvement related to this reality of fact. Just as the war in Iraq can’t solve our energy crisis, nor can the first option of our beloved politicians to appear tough on crime be, let’s build more prisons and jails to deal with what clearly is a societal problem of great proportion. Our first option seems to have become simply containment of any problem that arises instead of honest in-depth solutions with long-term positive results and outcomes.

The data shows that our jails and prisons are overcrowded because of the increase of crime directly attributed to substance abuse, using it, sales of it, crimes committed with those who don’t have the basic essentials, incarceration, drastic healthcare situations, that could be avoided if individuals had equal access to a system that many people avoid because of the high cost, promiscuous behaviors and ignorance.

Let’s not be ignorant, and not ask the hard questions as we see our property taxes amount to about to go up and Mr. Anderson stating he is hopeful to generate added funds through using more federal prison inmates to help pay for new jail. The numbers don’t add up, and please ask Mr. Anderson what he expects his result, outcome numbers to be after one year of his highly innovated idea of substance abuse treatment that was a crucial part of his self to get a new jail with no wraparound supportive services once they are released? “Wake-up-Everybody”

Allen Spencer E-mail: asab23spencer@yahoo.com

Valentine Jokes Chocolate Chukkles

What did the chocolate syrup say to the ice cream? - I’m sweet on you!

How do you say chocolate in French? - Chocolate in French

Should you ever eat chocolates on an empty stomach?

- No, always on a plate.

What did the boy elephant say to the girl elephant on Valentine’s Day? - I love you a ton.

What did the boy bat say to the girl bat on Valentine’s Day? - You’re fun to hang around with.

What did the boy cat say to the girl cat on Valentine’s Day?

- You’re purrfect for me!

What did the boy pickle say to the girl pickle on Valentine’s Day?

- You’re nuts so bad yourself.

What did the boy rabbit say to the girl rabbit on Valentine’s Day?

- Somebunny likes you!

What did the boy drum say to the girl drum on Valentine’s Day?

- My heart beats for you!

The Role of Iowa and Iowans in the 1960’s Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Jeremy Brigham will give a brief overview of important events in the movement, and discuss how churches from Iowa, including Lee County, participated in a “Cousin County” project with African Americans in Mississippi.

Iowa’s African American History

Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:00 PM, at Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs

Join the Museum’s Joe Nolte for a look at interesting stories from Iowa’s African American past.

The Sound that Jazz Makes

Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:00 PM, Mount Pleasant (location TBA)

International jazz saxophonist Ray Blue returns to the Museum! Jazz secrets revealed: What makes it jazz? What makes it different from other music? What is its musical roots? $5 suggested donation.

African American Athletes from Henry County

Saturday, Feb. 17, 1:30 PM, Mount Pleasant (location TBA)

Join a panel of local experts who will discuss the African American contributions to southeast Iowa’s sporting history.

The History of the NAACP in Iowa

Monday, Feb. 19, 6:30 PM, Waterloo Public Library

Dr. Jeremy Brigham examines the history of this important civil rights organization in our state. Sponsored by John Deere.

Patti Miller: Freedom Rider

Thursday, February 22, Loras College (time TBA)

Iowa native Patti Miller discusses her work in the South during the Civil Rights Movement, and her work with Martin Luther King, Jr. Sponsored by Loras College and John Deere.

Celebrate Africa!

Saturday, Feb. 24, 1 PM

Admission: $3 for adults, $2 for children 4 and up, free to Museum members.

Travel the entire continent of Africa without leaving Cedar Rapids! Navigate the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt, take a safari in Tanzania, wrap your tongue around the Nile through Egypt.

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Join the Museum’s Marlene Jessop for an educational video about early African American music? What are its musical roots? $5 suggested donation.

African American Heritage Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa

Calendar of Events

December 2007

The History of the NAACP in Iowa

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Dr. Jeremy Brigham examines the history of this important civil rights organization in our state. Sponsored by John Deere.

Building African American Communities In Iowa

Saturday, Feb. 24, 6:30 PM, Second Baptist Church, Ottumwa

Join the Museum’s Marlene Jessop for an educational video about early African American communities in Iowa. Sponsored by John Deere.

Des Moines’ African American Athletes

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 5:30 PM, Corinthian Baptist Church

Join children from Corinthian who interviewed four famous athletes from Des Moines for a presentation of their research findings, which are part of the Museum’s new exhibit. Supported by Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, Wells Fargo, and John Deere.

Museum exhibits will travel to Keokuk, Sioux City, Lincoln, NE, Iowa City, Coralville, Des Moines, and Waterloo in February.
Black History Month resolution delayed at Statehouse

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Black History Month got off to an inauspicious start in the Iowa Legislature on Thursday.

The House had been scheduled to receive a delegation headed by Linnes Finney, president of the Washington-based National Bar Association, which was founded in Des Moines in 1925 as an association for black lawyers.

Plans were to deliver a proclamation from Gov. Chet Culver and the Legislature commemorating the group and the opening of Black History Month.

Republicans, however, said they were stunned to learn that majority Democrats planned later in the day to debate a measure slapping new restrictions on car title loans, and they rushed off to a private meeting to map strategy. Scheduling problems forced the National Bar Association delegation to move on to the next event.

“That was not my intent,” said House Minority Leader Chris Rants, R-Sioux City. He said majority Democrats should have kept Republicans posted on debate plans.

“For this place to run there’s got to be some trust,” Rants said.

House Speaker Pat Murphy, D-Dubuque, said the car title measure had been on the debate schedule for several days.

The delegation included most of the officers of the National Bar Association, and was in town because the group is donating its papers and archives to the Drake University Law School.

The resolution was read later in the day.

Figure in Bill Cosby extortion case arrested on unrelated charges

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Prosecutors said Monday they are seeking the extradition of two women, one of whom was convicted a decade ago of trying to extort Bill Cosby, on unrelated charges of grand theft and perjury in a welfare fraud case.

Autumn Jaquel Williams, 32, and her mother Shawn Upshaw, 54, were arrested Thursday in Maryland and Texas after an arrest warrant was issued alleging the women illegally collected about $40,000 in child care benefits between 2001 and 2003, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney’s office.

Williams, formerly known as Autumn Jackson, was arrested in Rockville, Md. and was being held on $110,000 bail, prosecutors said. Besides being charged with multiple counts of grand theft and perjury, she faces one felony count of aid by misrepresentation.

Upshaw, also known as Shawn Byers and Shawn Brown, was taken into custody in San Antonio and was being held on $95,000 bail.

It was not immediately known whether either had retained attorneys to represent them.

In 1997, a New York federal jury found Jackson guilty of attempting to extort $40 million from Cosby by threatening to tell tabloid newspapers she was his out-of-wedlock daughter. She was also convicted of conspiracy and crossing state lines to commit a crime and sentenced to two years and two months in prison.

Prosecutors said Jackson demanded the money from Cosby on Jan. 16, 1997 - the day the comedian’s 27-year-old son Ennis was shot to death during a robbery attempt on a Los Angeles highway.

The case forced Cosby to disclose a tryst with Jackson’s mother. He denied fathering Jackson, but acknowledged providing her mother with more than $100,000 in financial support over the years.
A Night To Remember

Come Spread Love, Joy and Friendship For Valentine’s Day

When:  Monday, February 12, 2007
Where:  Noodle Zoo
         601 E. Locust Street
         Downtown
Time:  7:00 p.m.

Share Dinner & Dance With Someone Special,
Listen to some poetry, fellowship with other Christian singles and couples

Reserve your spot today by calling 288-4419
Deadline: Friday, February 9, 2007

An Event Sponsored By: St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Church Listings & Weekly Schedules

Burns United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDiv, Pastor
811 Crocker Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883

Church Schedule:
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Corinthian Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Masey, Pastor
814 School Street
Des Moines, IA 50309-1207
Phone: 515-243-4073

Church Business Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service
Verna Smith: 515-243-8470
“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in time of
comfort and convenience but where he stands in time of challenge
and controversy.” Martin Luther King.

Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:15 a.m.
Mondays - Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays - Intercessory Prayer at 5:30 p.m. & Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Thursdays - Spiritual Support Group at 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays - Knitting Class at 12:00 p.m.
Esther Circle Mission Society - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Every Month
1:00 p.m.
Busy Bees Mission Society - 2nd & 4th Saturday of Every Month
10:00 a.m.
Health Clinic - Third Tuesday of Every Month 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor: Rev. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDiv
Phone: 515-244-5883

Church Schedule:
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.

New Friendship Church of God In Christ
Address: 1537 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7997
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Masey
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday: Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday: Pastoral Teaching at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study Led By Pastor: 7:00 p.m.

King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 333-9th Street • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-280-9163
Pastor: Rev. Bobby Young
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Wednesday: Bible Study Led By Pastor: 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Email Address: spdaphiladelphia@msn.com

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Email Address: spdaphiladelphia@msn.com

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor
St. Paul A.M.E Church
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

Church Schedule:
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Sunday school
Praise & Worship
New Membership Class
Training or Minister/Evangelist
Nursery Available
Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
Children’s Church
Nursery Available
Mondays 6:30 p.m.
Praise Dance rehearsal
Tuesdays
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Computer Classes for seniors
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Aerobics & Taekwondo
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Good Samaritan Youth Outreach
Nursery Available
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. Women's Ministry
6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays
6:00 p.m. Aerobics
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Praise Team
7:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal
Saturday
Men’s Ministry - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m. Traditional Service
For information please call 515-288-4419.

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Henry Isaiah Thomas, Pastor
E. University & McCormick Street
Des Moines, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1785
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service
Bro. Donnie Williams: 244-4853 or Bro. Larry Welch: 771-4441
Mission Statement: Our mission is to win the lost, build the believer
and equip the worker so as to make disciples who can make disciples
who can make disciples.

Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:30 a.m.
Tues. & Wed. - Reading Program at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays - Mid-Day Prayer Meeting at 12:00 p.m. and Prayer
Meeting & Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Youth Service 1st & 3rd Sunday 5:00 p.m. to
7:00 p.m.

Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com
Valentine’s Day History

By Pegi Schlis, CTRS, ACC

One theory about the origin of Valentine’s Day dates it to ancient Rome and a priest named Valentine who performed marriages in violation of Emperor Claudius II’s orders. Claudius had forbidden marriages for fear men would not leave their wives to fight in the army. Valentine thought this to be unfair and secretly married several couples. When Claudius found out, he threw Valentine in prison where the priest died.

Another theory says Valentine was jailed for helping Christians. While Valentine was in prison, he cured a jailer’s daughter of blindness. Emperor Claudius II became enraged and had Valentine clubbed and beheaded on February 14, 269 A.D. Another story claims that Valentine fell in love with the jailer’s daughter and wrote her letters that were signed “From your Valentine.”

Another theory is that the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia was celebrated on February 15 which included a tradition of men selecting names of women to be their partners at parties and dances for the next year.

As Christianity became prevalent, priests attempted to replace old practices. To Christianize the ancient pagan celebration of Lupercalia, the church officials changed the name to St. Valentine’s Day. To give the celebration further meaning and eliminate pagan traditions, priests substituted the drawing of saints’ names for the names of the girls. On St. Valentine’s Day, priests placed saints’ names into urns or boxes. Each young person drew a name from the container. In the following year, the youth was supposed to emulate the life of the saint whose name he had drawn.

By the 14th century, the tradition reverted to the use of girls’ names. In the 16th century, they once again tried to have saintly valentines but it was unsuccessful.

Tobacco tax: Continued from page 4

Dr. George Weiner is director of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center and chair of the Iowa Consortium for Comprehensive Cancer Control.