Central Academy teacher wins Ambassadors in Education award

Des Moines—Des Moines Public Schools teacher Michael Schaffer has won the 2007 MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award. Schaffer teaches Advanced Placement Government and Macroeconomics at Central Academy. He was presented the award during the regular school board meeting on May 1.

Schaffer is one of 20 teachers nationwide to receive the award, which recognizes educators who connect schools to the community through creative partnerships and communications. Schaffer’s school receives $5,000 to continue community building efforts.

 Fellow teachers, current and former students and members of local community organizations nominated Schaffer, who has connected the school to the local, national and global community through numerous partnerships with businesses and organizations. One example is a partnership between the Virtual Trade Mission, the Iowa State Education Association and the school which has allowed him to take students to Australia and Vietnam to observe the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Susannah Stephens, a student nominator, said “This year was big because the World Trade Organization inducted Vietnam … and I attended [the event]. This was an eye-opening experience. I feel so connected to the world community now that I have had this opportunity. It would never have been possible had it not been for Mr. Schaffer.”

MetLife Foundation and the National Civic League started the Ambassadors in Education Award program in 2003. The Award is sponsored by MetLife Foundation, which was founded in 1976 by MetLife and supports programs that increase opportunities for young people to succeed, give students and teachers a voice in improving education, develop partnerships between schools and communities and strengthen relationships among parents, teachers and students. The National Civic League, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization devoted to community building, administers the program.

Dream Not of Other Worlds at Museum

Huston Diehl, the author of Dream Not of Other Worlds: Teaching in a Segregated Elementary School, 1970, will speak about her experience as a young white teacher in a “Negro” elementary school during the waning days of the Jim Crow south on Saturday, May 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the African American Museum of Iowa, 55 12th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids.

Focusing on the ordinary lives of the thirty-eight children in her fourth-grade classroom, she will discuss what they revealed to her about their fears, anxieties, beliefs, and dreams, as well as about their place in American society. She will also tell about her return in 2004 to her former school and consider what has changed after more than thirty years of integrated schooling. Diehl’s book will be available for purchase and signing.
Who said there is no “I” in Team?

Most of us have heard the sayings like “there’s no ‘I’ in team”, or “together everyone achieves or accomplishes more” (“T.E.A.M.”), and sometimes, we are programmed to believe the clichés. So let us delve a little deeper into the “I” in team concept. On a team you have individual players, that’s the first “I”, each of those players have individual responsibilities and roles to play.

Within a growing business you have many individual workers that make two “I’s” in team because a team of individuals are needed to make the business work. Some of them may think that a one person operation is enough to run a business, but that business still requires a banker, legal, or accounting support, a team.

So you see our simple research shows that the “I” in team does exist and it’s the individuals that have to do their jobs or assignments to make the team successful. They must do their jobs and the other team members must be able to trust that their team mates can get it done. The word team should be spelled “t.e.i.a.m”, or Together Every Individual Achieves More.

With this concept we can build strong and vibrant communities, which have economic prosperity. Think of the businesses we can grow in our communities with the use of “Iteam” concept, we just need to as individuals, join community efforts and do our part.

Just a thought!

Weekly Meditation: Put the Word of God in Your Mouth


“And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea, and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.”

Luke 6:17 (KJV)

In this text, we see a very important point. These people came to hear the Word and look at what happened….every person who heard the Word was healed.

Today, too many people want the power of God to heal their body, but they don’t want the Word. One of the Greek words regarding healing is “thereon,” which is where we get our English word “therapy.” To have therapy means the individual is involved in his own recovery.

Now, the book of Mark tells us of a familiar woman who had a recurring blood condition for twelve years.

She said this, but she was involved; she was doing her part and building her faith in the process.

Moving toward change JB ………

Drake offers scholarships for free cello instruction

The Drake University Department of Music will hold auditions for middle and high school cellists on May 23 to select recipients of scholarship awards for free cello instruction at Drake during the 2007-08 academic year.

Instruction will be given by Ashley Sandor Sidon, assistant professor of cello at Drake University. Prior to her Drake appointment, Sidon was cello teacher/chamber music coach and lecturer in 20th century music at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in Shanghai, China. While teaching in Shanghai, she toured Southeast Asia to present recitals and master classes at provincial cultural centers, music schools and other concert venues. Previously, Sidon was instructor of cello and director of chamber music at Earlham College in Indiana and associate member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra.

She holds the degree, Doctorate of Musical Arts in Violoncello, from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and has performed under artists such as Pierre Boulez, Daniel Barenboim, Michael Tilson Thomas and Christopher Wilkins. During the summer she is on the artistic faculty of the New England Music Camp in Maine.

For information on audition times and requirements for these free lessons, call Venita Svaldi at 515-271-4031.

Weekly Meditation:

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Moving toward change JB ………
May is National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month. Foster care is a temporary placement for a child who is unable to remain in his/her home due to problems that usually involve abuse and/or neglect. During the fiscal year of 2006, Children & Families of Iowa served on average 300 children in our foster care programs. Our goal when working with foster children is to reunite them with their birth parents whenever possible. If this is not possible, we begin searching for permanent placement.

Foster care parents are very special individuals who are committed to the well being of children and who play a very important role in their lives. “Being a foster care parent means sleepless nights, lots of patience and understanding. It also means that I have a chance to make a difference in a child’s life and they are making a big difference in mine,” said Terri Johnson, a Children & Families of Iowa foster mother.

There is a growing need for more foster care homes, especially those that will take in adolescents. In August of 2005 a group of current and former foster care teens formed a speaker’s bureau to raise awareness for foster care issues. This group is self-identified as elevate™. elevate™ is a group of young people who seek to inspire others to new levels of understanding & compassion to the life connection needs of foster care & adoptive teens by sharing their personal stories of hope. The elevate teens have several objectives such as, recruit families to foster and adopt, increase self-esteem among group members, educate legislators, and to educate the public about foster care and adoption. To learn more about this dynamic group visit www.elevateinspire.com

Children & Families of Iowa offers various types of foster care placement based on the needs of the children we serve:
• Basic Foster Care – this placement is for children who display minimal physical and behavioral problems.
• Treatment Foster Care – this placement is for children who are physically, mentally, behaviorally, intellectually, or socially impaired who have been determined by a Licensed Mental Health Professional to require the higher level of care. These children may also have substance abuse or delinquency issues.
• Respite Care – this placement is designed to give full-time foster care parents a short retreat. It allows the foster family at least one weekend a month to relax and refresh and allows a child to develop additional positive relationships.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact the Children & Families of Iowa office near you for more information: Des Moines: Amanda Addison, 18, a police science major in an independent living foster care program, left, reflects on her experiences in Rhode Island’s foster care system during an interview in Providence, R.I., Friday, March 9, 2007. Listening are Nadia Clay, 16, center, and Madeline Burgess, 23, both recipients of Rhode Island’s foster care system. (AP Photo)

U.S. Department of Labor announces competition for $20 million to fund Youthful Offender Grants

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) today announced a competition for approximately $20 million in funding for grants to provide alternative education, training and apprenticeships to youthful offenders.

“Young offenders will have the chance to catch up on missed education and enter into the culture of lifelong learning that defines the modern workforce,” said Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Emily Stover DeRocco. “Organizations competing for these grants will offer multiple career pathways to young people coming out of the justice system.

Through Youthful Offender Grants, apprenticeship programs will prepare workers for in-demand industries including construction, health care, information technology and biotechnology. Alternative educational opportunities will include the creation of alternative and charter schools to help young offenders earn high school diplomas and connect with employers. Organizations with proven youth offender education programs may also apply for funding.

This Solicitation for Grant Applications appears in today’s Federal Register and can be found online at www.doleta.gov/sga/sga.cfm or www.grants.gov. The competition is open to organizations including workforce investment boards, faith-based and community groups, state correctional facilities and Indian tribes. The competition closes May 31st. Grants may be used for a number of services including GED instruction, occupational skills training, paid and unpaid work experiences and job placement.

Award-winning projects will help youthful offenders return to their communities prepared to compete in today’s job market, where 90 percent of the fastest growing jobs require post-secondary education.

For more information on ETA’s Youthful Offender Grants and other youth employment programs, please visit www.doleta.gov/young_workers.

“I 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
Final Second Saturday at
The Des Moines Playhouse

The Des Moines Playhouse is the home for Second Saturday, an alternative Saturday night entertainment for young people in grades 6 - 12. The final Second Saturday of the 2006-07 school year will be 7:30-10:00 PM, Saturday, May 12. Cost is $8. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, and is available online at www.dmplayhouse.com.

In its fourth year of theatre fun at The Playhouse, Second Saturday is an evening of laughter and skits, theatre games and theatre sports. Teens work in groups and meet new people. While Second Saturday in a class, it is led by The Playhouse’s professional education staff who will help teens create impromptu skits similar to "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

Second Saturday takes place each month, September - May. The 2007-2008 season brochure will be available soon.

Auditions scheduled

Auditions for the musical “Disney's High School Musical” will be held at The Des Moines Playhouse at 6:00 PM, May 20. All auditions are open to the public, no one is casted. “Disney's High School Musical” has parts for 5 men, ages 16-22, 1 man, age 30+, 4 women, ages 16-22, 1 woman, age 30+, and a large ensemble of men and women ages 16-22. Those auditioning for “Disney’s High School Musical” must bring a prepared solo; an accompanist will be provided. Performances are July 13-Aug. 5. “Disney’s High School Musical” is directed by Ron Ziegler (“Pump Boys and Dinettes”), with music direction by Brenton Brown (“Swing!”) and choreography by Alison Shafer (“The Full Monty”).

Two high school students who are worlds apart — East High’s basketball star, Troy Bolton, and academic decathlon team member, Gabriella Montez — secretly decide to audition for the school’s musical. It’s a decision that turns both their lives and their school upside down in this new stage production based on the popular Disney original.

The Playhouse is Iowa’s oldest and largest producing theatre. Located at the 42nd Street exit of I-235, the theatre has presented a full season of shows since 1919 and also offers a wide variety of educational experiences including classes for ages 4 to adult, theatre trips to New York, and volunteer opportunities onstage and backstage. For up-to-date audition information, visit The Playhouse website at www.dmplayhouse.com or contact The Playhouse at 515-255-3741.

World of Difference Awarded Community Cultural Grant

The number of Americans living abroad has steadily grown over the past decade. According to recent estimates by the U.S. State Department, there are 6.6 million Americans living overseas, a number equal to twice the population of Iowa. It is more likely than ever that today’s school children will spend time abroad or work along side people from around the globe.

World of Difference, an Iowa based nonprofit organization, strives to prepare youth for a world made smaller by globalization. The organization was recently awarded an $18,000 Community Cultural Grant by the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). Funding will be used to develop cultural immersion experiences for students as well as enable teachers to integrate culture into their curriculum throughout the school year. This is the second year that World of Difference has received financial support from DCA.

"These two Department of Cultural Affairs grants are invaluable to World of Difference as we move from being a credible organization into a professional business," explains Sherry Gupta, World of Difference Executive Director.

"We move from being a credible organization into a professional business," explains Sherry Gupta, World of Difference Executive Director. Since its inception in 2005, World of Difference has reached more than 13,000 students in the Des Moines area with workshops led by their Cultural Ambassadors. These individuals form a corps of trained presenters representing a wide variety of countries and experiences. These cultural immersion experiences offer insights into foreign lifestyles and concepts that are normally beyond the reach of what Iowa schools are able to offer. "This is authentic learning at its best. Students can ask someone who has firsthand knowledge and is more than willing to act as a living textbook," comments Gary Birdwell, Urbandale High School.

In the 2007-08 school year, World of Difference will continue to offer workshops and collaborate with schools planning cultural diversity events. Contact Sherry Gupta at 515-273-8569 or sherry@worldofdifference.us for more information on World of Difference and its grant opportunities. More information can also be found online at www.dmplayhouse.com.

Mother’s Day brunch at ISU’s Reiman Gardens

All mothers admitted to Iowa State University’s Reiman Gardens free on May 13, and given carnations upon departure, compliments of Exchange State Bank.

The soothing notes of a string quartet will be playing during a 4 p.m. brunch served 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with an all-inclusive price that includes admission; children 4 and under eat for free. Pre-registration and payment preferred by calling Reiman Gardens at 515-294-2710 or reimangardens@iastate.edu.

Menu includes assorted Danish & mini muffins, bacon & sausage, scrambled eggs with cheese & chives, garden salad with dressings, seasonal fruit tray, vegetable medley; wild rice, baked tilapia with Chile lime butter sauce topped with Pico de Gallo, chicken de burgo, rolls with butter, assorted pies, cakes, and chocolate mousse, and coffee, tea, & orange juice.

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.iowamedical.org.

May 7, 2007

~ Joseph Pulitzer
History of “Amazing Grace” now online

A new Web site devoted to the history of the hymn “Amazing Grace” documents the song’s origins from the late 1700s to the current century, as well as its more than 3,000 published recordings. This site, available at http://memory.loc.gov/cocoon/ihas/html/grace/grace-home.html, is a joint venture of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, the Music Division and the American Folklife Center.

Since its creation in 1779 in England, “Amazing Grace” has grown in popularity to become one of the best-known musical works in the world. This Web site explores its history through items from the collections of the Library of Congress — from the earliest printing of the song to various performances of it on sound recordings.

The Library’s Chasanoff/Elozua Amazing Grace Collection comprises 3,049 published recordings of the hymn by different individual musicians or musical ensembles. The audio collection and database, compiled by Allan Chasanoff and Ramon Elozua and given to the Library in 2004, is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest collection of recordings of a single musical work. The site contains additional educational resources such as an illustrated timeline, essays on the history of “Amazing Grace,” a discography and a selected bibliography.

Brunswick Records, which in 1922 released a small series of recordings of so-called Sacred Harp songs. Recordings from the American Folklife Center made by folklorists Herbert Halpert, John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax, among others, give insight into local traditions of “Amazing Grace” performances during the 1930s, 40s and 50s.


Although Newton first wrote the words to “Amazing Grace” in 1772, it was not until 60 years later that the text was wed to the tune to which it is sung today. The Web site contains several examples of early printed versions of “Amazing Grace” that use a variety of tunes and arrangements. “The Virginia Harmony,” an early tune book printed in 1831, first used the melody that we have now come to associate with “Amazing Grace,” but did not match the tune to the words of the hymn. Another tune book, The “Southern Harmony,” printed in 1831, contains the earliest pairing of the words for “Amazing Grace” with the tune that we have now come to associate with the hymn. Subsequent hymnals from the 19th and early 20th centuries, also featured on the Web site, show how the arrangements for the tune evolved over the years.

The site contains additional educational resources such as an illustrated timeline, essays on the history of “Amazing Grace,” a discography and a selected bibliography.

What do you think?

Submit your insights and issues with a photo to:

iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

Iowa Bystander Mission

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

Iowa Bystander

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Sisters On Target calls for a day of turning off negative lyrics

If radio “shock jock” Don Imus is not the problem then all citizens should be the solution to conscientiously object to derogatory lyrics that pollute and defame our image as a people that is reflected to the public through any and every media source.

We, the members of Sisters On Target as well as other organizations, will hold a press conference on Wednesday, May 9th at the Des Moines Botanical Center (909 Robert D. Ray Dr,) under the Dome from 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Sisters on Target will ask that schools, churches and other community organizations join mothers across this state to have their sons and daughters and other concerned adults dedicate one day to turn off negative lyrics that defame and debase women.

The day selected is all day on Mother’s Day, May 13th.

Every mother wants their sons and daughters to have a safe and productive life of quality. This is no longer an option with some of the music that is being channeled across the airwaves. Therefore, Sisters On Target encourages citizens across our state to join us on May 9th for the press conference and wherever you may be on May 13th to encourage others to turn off these negative messages whether they are presented via television, CD’s, cassettes, MP-3 Players, IPOD’s or computers, that debase women.

Pictured: Sisters On Target president Mary Ann Spicer.
United Negro College Fund and Ad Council Launch New Public Service Advertisements

The Advertising Council and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) announced the launch of a new series of public service advertisements (PSAs) designed to continue encouraging financial support of minority education.

The United Negro College Fund has had a profoundly positive impact on the lives of millions of minority students. The organization has helped more than 350,000 minority students graduate from college. However, despite their gains, a persistent gap in education remains between African Americans and other students and between low-income students and their more affluent peers. According to UNCF, the high cost of college and the lack of financial assistance are the major reasons that students don’t enter or complete college.

The new PSA campaign, created pro bono by Young & Rubicam, includes television, radio, print, and outdoor advertising. By highlighting the leadership and accomplishments of important African Americans inventions and innovations, the new work asks potential donors to consider the impact of minority education on their own lives and, “Support minority education today, so we don’t miss out on the next big idea tomorrow.” The television and radio ads are narrated by actor Courtney B. Vance, who himself was featured in a 1989 UNCF PSA.

“These PSAs make the critical connection between education and the African American scientists, doctors, engineers and other professionals whose ideas have made life better for all of us,” said UNCF President and CEO Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D. “Our way of life is built on the kinds of ideas that are spotlighted in the PSAs, and we need to make sure that the next generation of innovators and inventors has the education they need to make their contributions to their communities and the country.”

Graduates of UNCF institutions have made lasting contributions to our nation by building successful careers in the fields of business, politics, health care and the arts, to name a few. Some prominent UNCF alumni include: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., director Spike Lee, General Chappie James (the U.S. Air Force’s first African American four-star general), Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration - pictured above), Alice Walker, (author) Leontyne Price (opera singer), and Brown University president Dr. Ruth Simmons (first African American president of an Ivy League school).

“Education has always been of great importance to the Ad Council,” said Peggy Conlon, President and CEO of the Ad Council. “We are extremely proud of the partnership we have had with UNCF and Y&R on this iconic campaign for the past thirty five years and hope to continue this wonderful effort to ensure many more minority students achieve their goals in the coming years.”

The new PSAs will be distributed nationwide this week and can be viewed on the Ad Council’s Web site at www.adcouncil.org.

“Working with the UNCF over the years is a source of great pride for Y&R and we believe the cause is as relevant today as it was 35 years ago when we launched ‘A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste’,” said Gary Goldsmith, Chief Creative Officer of Y&R North America, “we hope our latest work speaks to a new generation and conveys the message that education is crucial to progress.”

The award-winning UNCF ad campaigns featuring the iconic tagline, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste,” have attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in donated advertising support and have included such notable figures as Michael Jordan and President George H.W. Bush.

About UNCF

As the nation’s oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization, the United Negro College Fund’s mission is to provide financial support to its 39 member institutions and increase minority degree attainment by reducing financial barriers to college. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding 25 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 300 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship programs, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and facility development programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 65,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities across the country.

About the Ad Council

The Ad Council is a private, non-profit organization with a rich history of marshalling volunteer talent from the advertising and media industries to deliver critical messages to the American public. Having produced literally thousands of PSA campaigns addressing the most pressing social issues of the day, the Ad Council has effected, and continues to effect, tremendous positive change by raising awareness, inspiring action and saving lives. To learn more about the Ad Council and its campaigns, visit www.adcouncil.org <http://www.adcouncil.org>.

About Y&R

Y&R is one of the world’s leading marketing communications agencies. Founded in 1923, the agency today has 165 offices in 124 cities in 81 countries around the world. Our client partners are some of the world’s most prestigious global corporations, including Cadbury Schweppes, Colgate-Palmolive, Danone, Ford Motor Company and Xerox. Hamish McLennan is Chairman and CEO.

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NCAA’s academic report hits black colleges, La. schools hardest

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Big-money athletic programs avoided most of the NCAA’s penalties. Next year, they might not be so lucky.

The latest Academic Progress Report released by the NCAA on Wednesday showed only 11 BCS teams were punished for poor classroom performance, while historically black colleges and universities accounted for 13 percent of all sanctioned schools. Of the 49 warning letters sent out, 13 went to Louisiana teams.

That discrepancy could change next year when the NCAA plans to drop a mathematical calculation that helped some BCS teams avoid punishment this year, and NCAA President Myles Brand is already warning the schools.

“Many more teams could be subject to these penalties next year,” he said. “We’ve written letters to coaches and others saying we are concerned about this issue and we want to help put together plans that will help them improve.”

That’s little consolation to the schools already facing penalties. This is the first time the NCAA has sent out warning letters based on academic performance.

The NCAA compiles an APR, which measures eligibility and retention of student athletes, for every program at every Division 1 school.

Teams scoring less than 925 - the equivalent of a 60 percent graduation rate under the NCAA’s formula - received warning letters and could face harsher sanctions over the next three years. A second offense during that time would result in disqualification from the NCAA.

That’s already sounding the warnings for more than 1,000 schools. Of the 49 warning letters sent out, 13 went to Louisiana teams.

The NCAA expects those results to be more accurate next year when the new formula is in place.

“The disparity could change next year when the NCAA plans to drop a mathematical calculation that helped some BCS teams avoid punishment this year, and NCAA President Myles Brand is already warning the schools,” he said. “We’re concerned about all schools with a low-support basis, and there are a number of HBCUs in that category. We’re trying to provide them with the resources to do better.”

HBCUs received more than 50 waivers, excluding them from penalties for now. NCAA Vice President Kevin Lennon said the NCAA didn’t have the figures on how many hurricane-affected schools got waivers.

Texas Southern athletic director Alois Blackwell and Southern University sports information director Kevin Manns concur. Manns pointed to LSU’s massive academic center as an example of what can be bought.

But Blackwell does not believe that’s an excuse. “I’m not saying you can’t (succeed), but it makes it a little more difficult for you to do it,” Blackwell said.

Brand praised New Orleans’ Tulane University for its strong academic performance despite Hurricane Katrina - all seven of its teams scored 940 or better.

“What Tulane and these other schools have been through is one of the worst historical situations possible,” Brand said. “If Tulane can accomplish that, it’s just remarkable.”

Brand has committed the NCAA to helping schools improve, through planning and counseling and now with providing grants for academic projects. Last week, the NCAA’s board of directors approved a $1.6 million fund that will help low-income schools starting next year.

“We want to help give those schools a jumpstart in those academic areas,” Brand said.

If a team’s score fell under 900, it could lose scholarships based on the number of ineligible players leaving school during the next year.

No team could lose more than 10 percent of its allotted scholarships, so football teams would lose up to nine players while basketball teams would lose only two.

Tennessee-Chattanooga and San Jose State were the only two schools that received warning letters and also face the loss of scholarships. Each were cited in football. Tennessee-Chattanooga also was penalized in wrestling, while San Jose State was cited in men’s soccer.

The NCAA expects those results to be more balanced next year when a fourth year of data is added to the equation.

“We have seen in football and baseball significant improvement the last two years,” Brand said. “Unfortunately, we have not seen that in basketball. Unless we significant improvement or plans for recovery, I think we’ll see more penalties next year and significantly more.”

Wednesday’s report showed women’s teams continued to perform better academically than men’s teams. Women’s teams averaged a score of 970, men’s teams 950. Thirteen women’s teams were cited, compared with 99 men’s squads.

Although no sport averaged less than 925 during the three-year period, football, baseball and men’s basketball consistently compiled the lowest scores and most citations.

The Militant Labor Forum invites you to hear Olympia Newton speak on “The Cuban Revolution, Venezuela and the fight against imperialism today” on May 12th at 7:00 p.m. at 3707 Douglas Avenue in Des Moines. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. They are asking for a suggested donation of $5 for the dinner and $5 for the program.

Newton recently returned from Militant reporting trips to Venezuela - where she participated in the Women’s International Democratic Federation congress, and Vietnam - where she attended the meeting of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. Newton has written extensively for the Militant on Cuba, Venezuela, and other topics. The forum will also discuss why racism, discrimination, and exploitation here and U.S. policies and wars abroad, are two sides of the same coin. For more information call 515-255-1707 or e-mail mforum@qwest.net.

Songwriter John Burns will perform at Java Joe’s Coffee House, 214-4th Street in Des Moines on May 18th from 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. This is his first performance in Java Joe’s since 1996. “I hope to bring up my niece, Stephanie Axne, from the Chicago area to play two or three of her original songs,” stated Burns.

This September marks the 35th anniversary of his first original song. He’s written somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 songs. His song, “The Other Side of Your Heart”, was recorded by Lisa Gossett in 1978 and received some brief media airplay in the South. He performs on the piano and guitar.

“Over the past 31 years, I’ve played with bands including Now and Then, Baby Lester and the Buggybumpers, Goodnight Dallas and The Shirts. During the last two years, I’ve focused almost exclusively on my solo act, allowing me to perform all original work. I’ve worked up about 100 of my original songs for my solo act,” stated Burns.

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Employer: Girl Scouts of Moingona Council
Address: 10715 Hickman Rd.
Des Moines, IA  50322
Website: www.moingonaigirlscouts.org

Girl Scouting is a values-based organization with the Promise and Law providing the framework and ethical code. The motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one. Each girl is encouraged to become a better member of her own religious group and to respect the varying beliefs and practices of others. Girl Scouts are members of a global movement, which encompasses a vast range of faiths. Virtually all world faiths are represented in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Each member interprets “God” in her own way and there is no requirement for affiliation with an organized religion. The values expressed in the Girl Scout Promise and Law serve as the foundation for all the activities in the Girl Scout Program.

Job Title: Summer Program Facilitator
Job Type: Summer Employment
Schedule: Seasonal

Position Start Date: 
Pay Rate: $8/hour plus mileage

How To Apply: Contact for additional info and application
Contact Name: Membership Specialist Lucia Leydens
Email: lleydens@moingonaigirlscouts.org
Phone: (515)278-2881
Fax: (515)278-5988

Job Description: The Summer Program Facilitator(s) will plan and implement the weekly programming for our traveling summer program. They will supervise Summer Program volunteer staff that will assist with the implementation of the programming. The facilitators will plan programming which revolves around the theme of the day and provides activities consistent with the age levels of the participants. Summer Program Facilitator’s contracts will run from June 4th through August 10th, 2007.

Job Qualifications: Believe in the principles of Girl Scouting. Be at least 18 years of age. Be willing to learn the Girl Scout program and become a member. Strong human relations, conflict resolution, problem solving, and organizational skills. Ability to plan, organize and coordinate programming for girls ages 5-12. Ability to relate to people from diverse backgrounds. Experience working with children. Ability to enjoy, respect and appreciate children. Must have reliable transportation. Must have a good driving record.
DMACC president appointed to Iowa Quality Center Board

Organization is dedicated to making Iowa organizations more competitive. Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) President Rob Denson has been appointed to the Iowa Quality Center Board of Directors and named to chair the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence (IRPE) program of the Iowa Quality Center.

To remain competitive in today's global environment, Iowa organizations need to fully understand their individual strengths, how to improve upon their weaknesses and why it's increasingly important to maintain the highest quality level possible.

"The Iowa Quality Center and the Iowa Recognition for Performance Excellence program should be key components to Iowa's role in global business participation," said Denson. "Recognizing the successes of Iowa companies who have implemented 'quality' is very important so that others can see how important these concepts are to employee productivity and business success."

The IRPE program helps Iowa organizations assess their performance and capabilities through a self-evaluation process which identifies an organization's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

The IRPE program was created through a partnership between the Iowa Quality Center and the Iowa Business Council.

The evaluation criteria for this process are the same as the Baldrige National Quality Program Criteria for Performance Excellence. It uses seven categories: Leadership, Strategic Planning, Customer & Market Focus, Measurement, Analysis and Knowledge Management, Human Resource Focus, and Process Management.

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Obama statement on President's veto

Senator Barack Obama released the following statement in response to President's veto of Iraq funding bill:

"With one stroke of his pen, President Bush has stubbornly ignored the will of the American people, the majority of Congress and, most disturbingly, the realities on the ground in Iraq. Now we call upon our Republican colleagues in Congress to help override this veto and acknowledge what the President will not -- that there is no military solution to a political conflict that lies at the heart of this civil war. Only the Iraqi leadership can make peace, and the best way to pressure them to do so is still a phased withdrawal of American forces with the goal of removing all combat troops from Iraq by March 30th, 2008. It is time to end this war so we can bring our troops home and redeploy our forces to help fight the broader struggle against terrorism and other threats of this new century."

Obama statement on “National Day of Prayer”

Senator Obama released the following statement on “National Day of Prayer”: "President Lincoln once remarked, 'I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.' On this National Day of Prayer, I join millions of Americans in thanking God for listening in times of both challenge and triumph, and for lifting up our fellow citizens, our nation, and our world.”

University of Iowa removes Obama photo

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) - A University of Iowa academic department removed a photo of Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., from its Web site after receiving complaints it seemed like an endorsement of the presidential candidate.

Steve Parrott, a university spokesman, said the communication studies department Web site showed Obama holding a graduate student's infant during a recent campaign visit to the campus.

Parrott said the university received two e-mail complaints about the photo, which was removed Monday.

"I certainly don't think the way that the photo was displayed that everyone would consider it an endorsement, but I understand why some people might be concerned," he said.

Departments maintain their own sites, but the university will respond to complaints or concerns, he added.

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I never thought of losing, but now that it’s happened, the only thing is to do it right. That’s my obligation to all the people who believe in me. We all have to take defeats in life.

Muhammad Ali (1942-)

Statement after losing his first fight to Ken Norton

March 31, 1973
Drake University track and field coach Natasha Brown, Drake professor emeritus of education Ray Pugh and world-renowned opera singer Simon Estes will share life experiences and insights at the 13th annual Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope to be held Sundays in May. The presentations, which are free and open to the public, will each start at 6 p.m. in the New Hope United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 4525 Beaver Ave.

Brown, who is in her seventh year as head track and field coach at Drake, will speak Sunday, May 6. She is a two-time U.S. Olympian and was inducted into the 1995 Drake Relays Athletes Hall of Fame after competing in 16 Drake Relays. Her husband, Brian, serves as director of the Drake Relays.

Pugh, who is the founder and leader of the New Hope Institute, will speak Sunday, May 13. He taught at Drake for 25 years and in 1997 received both the Drake Medal of Science and the School of Education’s Outstanding Alumni of the Year award. His talk is titled “Fun with a Meaning.”

Estes will conclude the institute Sunday, May 20. He received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Drake in 1994. In 1996, Estes received the Iowan Award, which is the state’s highest honor and has been awarded only 13 times since its inception more than 40 years ago. He will share highlights from his life in the public eye.

Recent presenters at the Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope include former Iowa Gov. Robert Ray, former Iran hostage Thomas Sutherland, former Drake women’s basketball coach Lisa Stone and Des Moines obstetrician Dr. Paula Mahone.
The Des Moines Branch NAACP held its annual ACT-SO competition Saturday April 7th at the Corinthian Baptist Church. Twenty students competed in twelve categories. Students have been preparing for competition since September by meeting with mentors and attending preparation workshops on topics including: the history of the NAACP, decision making strategies, time management, career exploration, goal setting, how to develop a business plan, communication (both oral and written), interviewing skills, building relationships, and A T O D. Every year the local competition gets stronger. This year, six students will be representing the Des Moines Branch at the national ACT-SO competition.

July 6th – 8th in Detroit, MI. The following student received 1st place recognition:

Kiah Aikoriegie - A senior graduating from Roosevelt High School in May 2007. Kiah will compete in Instrumental Music Classical. This is Kiah’s first year to compete in ACT-SO at both the local and national levels.

Jessica Avant - A junior attending East High School competing in both Playwriting and Drawing. This is Jessica’s third year to compete in ACT-SO and her third year competing at the national level.

Makea Sanders – A graduating senior from Johnston High School competing in both Poetry and Vocal Music Contemporary. This Makea’s third year competing in ACT-SO and her second year competing at the national level.

Chayla Santon-Robinson - A junior attending Roosevelt High School. Chayla will be competing in Vocal Music Classical. This Chayla’s first year to compete at both the local and national levels.

Marcus Johnson – A sophomore attending Urbandale High School. Marcus will be competing in Painting. This is Marcus’ first year to compete at both the local and national levels.

Arnold Woods, III – A graduating senior from Hoover High School. This is Arnold’s fourth year to compete and his third year returning to the national competition. Arnold will compete in Photography.

Based on their local scores and judge’s recommendations, five second place winners will be traveling with the Des Moines competitors to the national competition. As observers, these students have agreed to participate in competition prep workshops, perform community programs and events which showcase the local ACT-SO program, and compete in the 2008 local program.

Student observers are: Jasmine Hayes, Eric Hall, Mathew Knight, McKenzie McCracken, and Lavinia Rumbly.

The 2007 ACT-SO Showcase of Excellence will be held on Friday evening May 18, 2007. The program will be held at Mercy Medical Center East Tower located on 3rd and Laurel (across from the main post office). The Showcase will begin at 6:30 p.m. All participants will perform and visual arts pieces will be on display.

The National ACT-SO competition will be held July 6-8th at Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dearborn, MI. The competition precedes the 98th Annual NAACP National Convention held at Cobo Hall in Detroit, MI. The 2008 local ACT-SO program will begin this September with student awareness and recruitment orientation meetings. These meetings are for both students and parents. Workshops and training sessions will be held to prepare students for local and national competition. The workshops are designed for all participants to develop the skills that will help them perfect their talents and give them marketable skills in the education, employment, and fine arts genre.

ACT-SO is looking for African American high school students who will commit to seven months of rigorous training in Science, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Entrepreneurship. ACT-SO needs mentors who will commit to one (1) hour each week for 10 months sharing their professional and or life learned expertise with participants during the preparation period for local and national competitions. ACT-SO needs judges. Judges will commit to one full day of community volunteerism on the day of the local competition.

For additional information about the local ACT-SO program please contact Mrs. Gretchen Woods, local committee chairperson by phone 515-234-1947 or by email: gretchenahw@neopolis.com or visit the Des Moines NAACP website at www.naacpdesmoines.org. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Gretchen using the information above. For information about student participation, please contact Mr. Steve Fields, student recruitment committee chair by calling 515-313-7727. For information about becoming a judge, please contact Paul Lane by calling 515-242-6332.

The 2008 student awareness and recruitment campaign will begin in September. Category descriptions and competition requirements can be found on the NAACP Des Moines website. Registration for the 2008 program runs between October 2007 and January 2008. The local competition will be held on April 5, 2008. Please Save the Date.
KBBG-FM 88.1
Afro-American Community Broadcasting, Inc.

Proudly Presents Its

30th Annual Banquet

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center

6:00 p.m. - Social Hour
7:00 p.m. - Dinner and Program

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Robert A. Franklin
Assistant Professor of Radio/Television
Producer/Host of “Like It Is”
WASU-FM, Jonesboro, Arkansas

B.S., Radio/Television - Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
M.A., English/Communications - Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
M.A., Heritage Studies - Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AK
M.A., PhD of Philosophy, Heritage Studies - Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas

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RSVP by May 4, 2007

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Purchase a table as a direct donation to KBBG-FM
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KBBG-FM is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization

Jimmie Porter • Founder and CEO
Morehouse Man who almost wasn’t ends 12 years as school president

Massey said that after his first week at Morehouse as a nervous teenager from the country, he was ready to leave the school near downtown Atlanta.

"Everybody was very smart," Massey said. "My freshman roommate was from Dallas, and there were people from other major cities. I didn’t think I knew anything.

He stayed and discovered that his professors and the upperclassmen were supportive. He found comfort under the big magnolias tree outside of Graves Hall, which reminded him of home. And Morehouse’s sixth president, Benjamin E. Mays, helped mold him and his classmates.

"There was this sense that there were certain kinds of behavior you were expected to adhere to,“ said Massey, who would receive a bachelor’s degree in physics and math. “And it gave us all the sense that as a Morehouse student, you would be able to compete with anybody in the world.”

Sitting in his office, Massey has a statue of bbelies his slim build, and a personality that warms his formal surroundings. He is eager to show off his young grandchildren, whose pictures are strewn across his desk.

Massey has been particularly effective in fundraising for his alma mater.

“We don’t approach potential donors that we are this poor, little Southern school and we need your help,” Massey said. “What we say is Morehouse is thriving and of importance to the nation in producing leaders.”

Massey is also the first president since Mays to live on campus, commonly strolling across its 66 acres and among its buildings.

He was there when a student fractured the skull of another with a baseball bat five years ago because he thought the victim was gay.

“That was a very horrible time,” Massey said, adding that he felt the school was unjustly labeled as intolerant.

Massey said Morehouse’s student body learned lessons from the incident about violence and tolerance regarding homosexuality, encouraging gay students to come forward and form organizations.

Then last summer, the body of 23-year-old student Carlnell James Walker Jr. was found in the trunk of his car after police say four former students broke into his home and bound, beat and stabbed him - looking for a $3,000 insurance settlement check that Walker was expected to receive.

Massey said the campus is still struggling to recover from the incident.

Children and Family Urban Ministries Receives Grant from Nationwide for Health Fair

Children and Family Urban Ministries announced today that it has received a grant from the Nationwide Foundation. The grant will be used for the annual Back-to-School Health Fair.

The Back-to-School Health Fair personifies the old proverb “It takes a village to raise a child.” School physicals, immunizations, dental screenings and school supplies will all be provided at the fair.

“Children who receive care will have all that they need, not being laid low by poverty, racism and classism. On that day the Back-to-School Health Fair will turn into just a neighborhood party, a festival of friends and a good time. However, that day has not yet come.”

ATLANTA (AP) - Walter Massey was a shy, black boy from Hattiesburg, Miss., unsure of his place in the world, when he arrived as a 16-year-old freshman at Morehouse College.

Nearly 40 years later, he returned to change the school that changed him. His legacy as Morehouse’s ninth president includes a fundraising campaign that brought in $119 million in three years — almost $15 million more than he set out to raise — and helping the school land the coveted collection of more than 7,000 handwritten notes, letters and sermons by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the school’s most famous alumnus.

But a high-profile hate crime and murder in recent years involving Morehouse students and alumni cast a shadow on the school’s reputation, threatening Massey’s goal of renewing Morehouse’s longstanding commitment to a culture of excellence. On May 20, Massey will preside over his final commencement at the nation’s only historically black all-male college.

“When they write the history of Morehouse, they will certainly focus on the Massey years,” said Robert Franklin, an Emory University professor, former president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta and a 1973 Morehouse graduate who has been named Morehouse’s 10th president.

After 12 years as the school’s charismatic, energetic leader, Massey said he has left the school as it left him when he graduated in 1958: confident and well-prepared, a stark contrast from who he was as a high school sophomore in Mississippi.

As the story goes, Massey’s mother asked young Walter to drive a group of students to take a test for early admission to Morehouse.

“Everybody was very smart,” Massey said. “My freshman roommate was from Dallas, and there were people from other major cities. I didn’t think I knew anything.

He stayed and discovered that his professors and the upperclassmen were supportive. He found comfort under the big magnolias tree outside of Graves Hall, which reminded him of home. And Morehouse’s sixth president, Benjamin E. Mays, helped mold him and his classmates.

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Massey said the campus is still struggling to learn from that tragedy. Nothing in the students’ records provided a warning, he said.

This spring, Morehouse changed its admissions policy to require in-person or telephone interviews of all serious candidates. The school also is considering instituting a business casual dress code.

When he vacates his wood-paneled, book-lined office next month, Massey will leave with much to be proud of. Two Marshall scholarship graduates graduated under his watch. During his term, Morehouse also produced two Rhodes scholars and became the first historically black college to claim three among its alumni.

All of Morehouse’s tenured faculty now hold doctorates. A new leadership center building opened in 2005.

Now, Massey looks forward to moving to Chicago with his wife, Shirley, and spending more time with his grandchildren. But he will still return to campus for homecoming games and commencement exercises.

“I’ll be an alumnus still,” he said, flashing a wide smile. “They can’t take that away.”

Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat!

Children and Family Urban Ministries Receives Grant from Nationwide for Health Fair

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The Back-to-School Health Fair personifies the old proverb “It takes a village to raise a child.” School physicals, immunizations, dental screenings and school supplies will all be provided at the fair.

“Children who receive care will have all that they need, not being laid low by poverty, racism and classism. On that day the Back-to-School Health Fair will turn into just a neighborhood party, a festival of friends and a good time. However, that day has not yet come.”

Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat!

Cooking is often at the very center of family life – but leave cooking unattended and you could have a serious fire on your hands.

Cooking equipment is involved in more than 100,000 home fires every year, and most of those fire start because people aren’t paying attention. And while a few minutes may not seem like much time to be away from what’s cooking, that’s all it take to start a fire.

Use the following Cooking Safety Checklist to make sure that your home is safe for you and your children. Home fires can be deadly, but by following these safety tips, you’ll be helping to make your family safer.

Does a grown-up always pay attention to things that are cooking?

Does a grown-up watch the stovetop when he or she is frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food?

If a grown-up must leave the kitchen for even a short-period of time, do they turn off the stove?

Are things that can burn such as dish towels, curtains or paper at least 3 feet away from the stove?

Is the top of the stove clean? No spilled food, grease, paper or bags?

Are the pot handles turned toward the back of the stove when a grown-up is cooking?

Do children and pets stay out of the “kiddie-free” zone (3 feet from the stove) when a grown-up is cooking?

Are containers opened slowly after they are removed from the microwave? Hot steam escaping from the container can cause painful burns.

Is the fire department’s emergency number near the phone?

Does your family have a home fire escape plan? Do you practice it 2 times a year?

For more information contact:

Children’s Center at Mercy

1-888-4122

www.mercydesmoines.org

Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat!
The Director’s Council & Spectrum Resources

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For more information on the P.R.I. contact: 515-288-1023
KBBG keeps Black Iowa informed!

Tune into “Black Iowa Today,” “Black Iowa Imperative,” and “KBBG’s Legislative Wrap.” “Black Iowa Today” airs the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m., “Black Iowa Imperative” airs the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, and “KBBG’s Legislative Wrap” airs every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. on radio station KBBG 88.1 FM, Waterloo, Iowa or on the world wide web at www.kbbgfm.org.

The programs are hosted by Jonathan Narcisse, president of the State of Black Iowa Initiative.

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.

Willkie House, Inc.

Ed Carl Barnes, MSW, LMSW
Executive Director
900 17th Street
Des Moines, IA 50314
(515) 243-7817
Fax: (515) 243-6316
E-mail: ebarnes@willkiehouse.org

Career Opportunities In Journalism

Have you ever wanted to make a difference but instead you feel like you’re stuck in a deadend job? If so join us!

We currently have openings for an editor, a photojournalist, a marketing director, a circulation manager, and an executive assistant to our president and CEO.

If you are interested call Jonathan R. Narcisse at 515-280-8092 or send your resume to jon_narcisse@yahoo.com.

If you would like to place your business card or your organization’s business card in Iowa Bystander call Jonathan at 515-471-5092 or 515-280-8092.

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## 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  
Des Moines, Iowa 50301  
Phone: 515-262-3802  
Email: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com

**Church Schedule:**  
- **Sunday Morning Worship:** 8:00 a.m.  
- **Sabbath School:** 9:30 a.m.  
- **“Showers of Blessing” Fellowship & Prayer Service:** 15:00 a.m.  
- **Wednesday Prayer Service:** at 6:30 p.m.

**Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey, 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:**  
- **Wednesday 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 Tuesdays of Every Month 1:00 p.m.

**Busy Bees Mission Society:** 2nd & 4th Saturday of Every Month 10:00 a.m.  
- **Sundays:** Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**St. Paul A.M.E. Church**  
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor  
St. Paul A.M.E Church  
1201 Day Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50314  
Ministry Days & Times

**Sundays 9:00 a.m.:**  
- **Nursery Available**

**Sundays 10:00 a.m.:**  
- **Morning Worship**  
- **Children’s Church**

**Sundays 12:00 p.m.:**  
- **Praise Dance rehearsal**

**Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.:**  
- **Nursery Available**

**Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.:**  
- **Women’s Ministry**  
- **Youth Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursdays 6:00 p.m.:**  
- **Aerobics**

**Saturday 7:00 p.m.:**  
- **Unity Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday 8:00 a.m.:**  
- **Traditional Service**

Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

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**How are they to hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14**
State has first black governor - for a day

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - New York has its first black governor - for a day, anyway.

Under the state constitution, Lt. Gov. David Paterson, a Harlem Democrat, was in charge Tuesday because Gov. Eliot Spitzer was out of state, attending a California campaign fundraiser. It was actually the third time Paterson, under the constitution drafted in 1777, had the powers of the governor this year. The other two times Spitzer was in Washington, D.C., on state business.

"Tell the lobbyists I’m free for dinner!" joked Paterson, who often used humor as a tool over two decades in the state Senate’s minority. "It’s almost as frightening as when Gen. Haig said he was charge," Paterson said, referring to when hawkish Secretary of State Alexander Haig erroneously declared that he was constitutionally in charge in 1981 when President Reagan was shot.

Paterson, however, said he kept in contact with the governor throughout the day and would quickly pass any crisis his way. Paterson’s gubernatorial duties included meeting a delegation from the Empire Pride Agenda, the state’s leading gay advocacy group, and attending the wake of Trooper David Brinkerhoff, who was killed a week ago in the Catskills as he and six other members of the elite Mobile Response Team searched for a suspect in another trooper shooting.

"No matter how many times I go to these, it never gets easier," Paterson said after attending the viewing for the 29-year-old trooper. "That’s because there is no right thing to say." Spitzer will attend the funeral Wednesday.

Unlike former Gov. George Pataki, Spitzer acknowledged that the lieutenant governor can take official action if needed as governor, although Spitzer was still on the phone and running the state, said Spitzer spokeswoman Christine Anderson.

The first time Paterson had the governor’s chair, he allowed a moment to consider the history. He is the first black with that power, and legally blind - he is the first disabled person in the state, said Spitzer.

Some civil rights leaders praised the appointment.

"I thought about it in the context of the long history of this state, and the long list of people not just of color but of all ethnicities and women, all of these people who certainly were more qualified than me, but who had the misfortune of being born before me. I like to dedicate these moments to them." 000

Des Moines Library News

Computer Basics
With the widespread use of computers and technology, there is no better way to learn computer basics then by attending the Computer Basics class at the Central Library on Thursday, May 10, from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.

This fun and technology-friendly workshop will teach you everything from different computer parts to how to use the mouse. Stop by the Central Library or call 515-283-4152, extension 3, to preregister.

Polk County Conservation Bird Program
Come and learn about some common and not so common Iowa birds on Saturday, May 12, at 10:00 AM. The program will be held at the Central Library. You’ll have an opportunity to see a variety of bird mounts and learn about bird characteristics. All ages are welcome. Heidi Anderson from the Polk County Conservation Board will be leading the program.

Friends of the Franklin Avenue Library Annual Potluck
If you love to read, and you love your library, you will love the Friends of the Franklin Avenue Library! The Friends of the Franklin Avenue Library are holding their annual potluck luncheon on Tuesday, May 22, from 12:00-1:30 PM. The potluck is for volunteers, friends, and staff. Stop by and see how much fun it is to be a Friend of the Franklin Avenue Library!

Basic Internet Searching
Need help with Internet searching? Stop by the Central Library on Thursday, May 24, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM to learn more. This information session will help develop skills that are needed in basic Internet searching. You will learn how to search the Internet using a search engine. You must preregister for this event. Call 283-4152, extension 3, to join the fun!

Adult Book Discussions
Stop by any of the six libraries to be part of an adult book discussion. There are several chances to attend. Ask at the information desk to borrow a copy of a book: Wednesday, May 9, 2:30-3:30 PM, Central Library, The Master Butchers Singing Club, by Louise Erdrich; Wednesday, May 16, 2:00-3:00 PM, East Side Library, biography of your choice.

It’s a sad dog won’t wag its own tail!
We complain because the “mainstream” media and the entertainment community portray Black youth in a negative light. We know the truth, however. We have kids in our community doing some amazing things. At Iowa Bystander we want to celebrate those accomplishments. To tell your child’s story email it and photos to iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com.

Dramatic increase in size for Gospel Channel after deal
NEW YORK (AP) - The Black Family Channel will shut down and has sold its space on cable systems to the Gospel Music Channel, the networks said Tuesday.

The deal makes the Gospel Music Channel available in America’s 10 largest markets, and it expects to finish the year with more than 20 million subscribers, the network said.

“Gospel Music Channel embodies BFC’s values, but does so on a broader, multicultural scale,” said Willie Gary (pictured), founder of the Black Family Channel, about the shutdown.

The Gospel Music Channel is a 24-hour service that encompasses all Christian music, from rock to gospel.