Established 1894

Iowa Bystander

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) meets 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 5, via conference call. The ICSW is a state advocacy agency that works to equalize women’s opportunities and to promote full participation by women in the economic, political, and social life of the state.

The meetings are open to the public. Any member of the public may join the meeting by coming to the Department of Human Rights, Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor, Room 208, 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines.

The ICSW meets at sites accessible for people with mobility limitations. If other accommodations are needed, please contact the office prior to the meeting.

For further information, contact Lori M. Schrader/Bachar at 515/281-4470 or 800/558-4427.

Democrats shunning Black caucus debate

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic presidential candidates Bill Richardson and Chris Dodd will not participate in a Democratic debate co-sponsored by Fox News Channel this fall, joining their top rivals in bypassing the event.

Their decisions, announced by campaign aides Wednesday, are sure to disappoint the Congressional Black Caucus, whose political education and leadership institute is Fox’s partner in the debate.

But Richardson, the governor of New Mexico, and Dodd, a senator from Connecticut, have been under pressure to shun the debate from liberal groups who say Fox is biased against Democrats.

The debate, first months ago when John Edwards became the first candidate to announce that he would not attend the Sept. 23 debate in Detroit. A week later, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama announced that they also would not participate.

So far only Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., has said he intends to be at the debate.

Several campaigns have agonized over the decision, especially because of the participation of the Congressional Black Caucus, the group that comprises Congress’ black lawmakers, including Obama.

But liberal organizations, led by MoveOn.org, have agitated against Fox with an online campaign that includes video excerpts of conservative Fox commentators.

The caucus is co-sponsoring another Democratic debate with CNN. No one has indicated they will miss that one.

Meanwhile, the Financial Times and the Center on Politics and Foreign Relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies have been trying to secure commitments from Democratic candidates to participate in a debate next week devoted exclusively to Iraq. Biden, who has been demanding a war-only debate, is the only one so far to say he will attend.

Robert Gutman, the director of the Center at Johns Hopkins, said other campaigns have indicated interest and said some cable news organizations and public television have said they would consider the debate. It is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CST Wednesday’s at Johns Hopkins’ Kenney Auditorium.

Gutman said he planned to place the candidates, whether they attended or not.

“We’re ready to roll, with full seats or empty seats,” Gutman said.

Iowa Juneteenth Banquet

The 17th Annual Iowa Juneteenth Observance’s Banquet is taking place at the Hotel Fort Des Moines (1000 Walnut Street, Des Moines) on June 8 at 7:00 PM. The banquet theme is “Children: Our Greatest Heritage” and the featured speaker is author & educator Dr. Charles A. Taylor. Dr. Taylor wrote the book, Youth Forum”. The Iowa Juneteenth Youth Forum is a collaborative effort between the Des Moines Branch NAACP McLeod Bethune Award”. Dr. Bethune was born in the Reconstruction-era following the Civil War and was a great leader of Human Sciences at Iowa State University. is being honored as the educator of the year and presented with the Mary Robinson, Director of Graduate Education in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies of the College of Education.

Dr. Conner, a Des Moines physician and the first African-American to head the nation’s court system, which it calls dysfunctional, underfunded and discriminatory toward the poor, the disabled and minorities.

Robert Guttman, the director of the Center on Politics and Foreign Relations at the Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, has been trying to secure commitments from Democratic candidates to participate in a debate next week devoted exclusively to Iraq. Biden, who has been demanding a war-only debate, is the only one so far to say he will attend.

But liberal organizations, led by MoveOn.org, have agitated against Fox with an online campaign that includes video excerpts of conservative Fox commentators.

The caucus is co-sponsoring another Democratic debate with CNN. No one has indicated they will miss that one.

Meanwhile, the Financial Times and the Center on Politics and Foreign Relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies have been trying to secure commitments from Democratic candidates to participate in a debate next week devoted exclusively to Iraq. Biden, who has been demanding a war-only debate, is the only one so far to say he will attend.

Robert Gutman, the director of the Center at Johns Hopkins, said other campaigns have indicated interest and said some cable news organizations and public television have said they would consider the debate. It is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CST Wednesday’s at Johns Hopkins’ Kenney Auditorium.

Gutman said he planned to place the candidates, whether they attended or not.

“We’re ready to roll, with full seats or empty seats,” Gutman said.

NAACP unveils reform campaign reform courts

DETROIT (AP) - The Detroit branch of the NAACP is seeking to reform the state’s court system, which it calls dysfunctional, underfunded and discriminatory toward the poor, the disabled and minorities.

The civil rights organization, with the help of the Michigan ACLU, found six areas in the courts that it said were either unconstitutional or needed drastic change. The NAACP’s legal counsel, Melvin “Buck” Hollowell, says the problems go back years.

“People say government is dysfunctional. We felt we couldn’t wait any longer,” Hollowell told The Detroit News for a story Wednesday. “We have an emergency situation in our courts.”

Race and income play a big role in a state prison population that is predominantly poor and black, civil rights leaders say.

“The justice system is working for a privileged few,” Hollowell said. “But it’s not working for the average person.”

A long-standing problem is jury selection in Wayne County, which results in a pool that is 12 percent black even though the county is 40 percent black, according to a 2006 report by the National Center for State Courts that was commissioned by the Wayne County Circuit Court.

“The court is very supportive of the proposals of the NAACP initiative as it concerns jury composition issues,” Wayne County Circuit Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly said.

The NAACP also is troubled that the state has left it up to counties to decide how to counsel indigent defendants. Without guidelines or adequate funding, civil rights leaders say poor people aren’t getting proper legal representation.
Investing in Iraq

As I continue to talk to you about the economic opportunities that are available to us, let’s talk about international currency, specifically Iraqi Dinar. The Iraqi Dinar makes a great addition to a long term investment strategy. This is not investing in war, but the investment in the reconstruction of the country of Iraq. With nearly 25% of the world’s oil the country has resources that can and will support their currency, and the United States, major corporations, and other governments have taken up positions to assist Iraq in re-development.

The reason for the long term strategy is, because of the war and its volatility at the present time. Once the region is stabilized the movement toward strengthening the Iraq economy will intensify. The country has started to gain more tourism in the northern parts of the country, and limited oil is starting to move.

Halliburton; one of the largest government contractors has moved it’s long time Texas headquarters to the country of Dubai giving them more speed and flexibility in the region. This is just one fact the shows the region will be stabilized.

Presidential Order 13303: Allows US Citizens to invest in the new Iraq. Under this order and the Coalition Provisional Government Order 39, a US Citizen has the same rights to investments as an Iraqi citizen.

Savvy investors have made sizable income from their investments in foreign currency. The Iraqi Dinar makes a sound addition to a diversified investment strategy. I invest heavily in the foreign currency market and I’m positioned for long term gains. Here are some statistics on the Iraqi Dinar:

Prior to the Gulf War, 1 million Iraqi Dinar = US $3,200,000. Now you can buy 1 million Iraqi Dinar for $860.

If the Iraqi Dinar appreciates to just one penny, then 1 million Iraqi Dinar = $10,000. You profit US $9,140.

If the Iraqi Dinar appreciates to the pre-Gulf War rates, then 1 million Iraqi Dinar = US $3,200,000. You profit US $3,199,140.

Prior to Saddam Hussein invading Kuwait: 1 million Kuwaiti Dinar = US $2,790,000. After the Kuwaiti invasion by Iraq: 1 million Kuwaiti Dinar = US $100,000. Today: 1 million Kuwaiti Dinar = US $3,423,900. That’s a 34-fold increase! (Gidassociates.com)

Again I stress that you should do your research and make up your mind on investing. The opportunity in Iraq is real and some will make money and some will not, that’s just the way it works out, but the chance to increase your income by investing in Iraq reconstruction makes sense. Ask your investment professional, research the internet, magazines, or whatever you use and make an informed decision.

SALES MANAGER
Sales Manager position available. Go to www.civiccetera.org for more information and to fill out an online application.

Advertise today in The Iowa Bystander!
Amy and Lane run a small business that offers internet service today to tell their story. I want to give a special thanks to Amy and Lane Chicos in Iowa City, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama “Cutting Costs and Covering America: A 21st Century Health Care System”

Obama Lays Out Plan to Save American Families Provide Affordable Health Care Coverage for All

Iowa City, IA - During a speech at the University of Iowa, Barack Obama rolled out a plan to lower health care costs and ensure affordable, high-quality health care for all Americans.

Under the Obama plan, the typical family will save up to $2,500 every year through:

- Health IT Investment, which will reduce unnecessary and wasteful spending in the health care system that results from preventable medical errors and inefficient paper billing systems.
- Improving prevention and management of chronic conditions.
- Require competition in the insurance industry to reduce administrative costs and lower premiums for individuals and investigate the increasing monopolization of the insurance industry.
- Providing insurance for catastrophic coverage that will reduce insurance premiums.
- Making health insurance universal, which will reduce spending on uncompensated care.

Obama’s coverage plan will make available a new national health plan that will allow individuals without access to affordable insurance coverage. The plan focuses on the following key parts:

- A new public health plan that will give individuals the choice to buy affordable health coverage that is similar to the plan available to federal employees. The new public plan will be open to individuals without access to group coverage through their workplace or current public programs.
- A National Health Insurance Exchange to help individuals who wish to purchase an insurance plan for themselves. The Exchange will act as a watchdog group and help reform the private insurance market by creating rules and standards for participating insurance plans to ensure fairness and to make individual coverage more affordable and accessible.
- Requiring all employers to make a meaningful contribution towards health coverage for their employees.
- Mandating all children have health care coverage and expanding the number of options for young adults up to age 25 to continue coverage through their parent’s plans.
- Obama will expand eligibility for the Medicaid and SCHIP programs and ensure that these programs continue to serve their critical safety net function.

Building on the successful efforts of states to take the lead in reforming the health care system, Under Obama’s plan states can continue to experiment, provided they meet the minimum standards of the national plan.

I want to thank the University of Iowa for having us here, and I want to give a special thanks to Amy and Lane Chicos for joining me today to tell their story.

Amy and Lane run a small business that offers internet service to their community. They were the very first company to provide broadband access in their remote corner of northeastern Iowa, and every day, hundreds of people count on the services they provide to do their jobs and live their lives.

But today they are on the brink of bankruptcy—a bankruptcy that has nothing to do with any poor business decision they made or slump in the economy they weren’t prepared for.

Lane was diagnosed with cancer when he was twenty-one years old. He lost a lung, a leg bone and part of a hip. Seventeen years later, he is cancer-free, but the cost of health insurance for him, his wife and his three kids is now over $1,000 per month. Their family’s premiums keep rising hundreds of dollars every year, and as hard as they look, they simply cannot find another provider that will insure them.

Amy and Lane are now paying forty percent of their annual income in health care premiums. They have no retirement plan and nothing saved. They can no longer afford to buy new clothes or fill up their cars with gas; they have racked up more credit card debt then they know what to do with, and Amy wrote to us and said that the day she heard the loan officer say the word “bankruptcy” was one of the worst in her life.

“My heart was in pain,” she said. “This is not who we are. We have done everything right. We have done everything we were supposed to do. This is not who we are.”

Amy Chicos is right. This is not who we are. We are not a country that rewards hard work and perseverance with bankruptcies and foreclosures. We are not a country that allows major challenges to go unsolved and unaddressed while our people suffer needlessly. In the richest nation on Earth, it is simply not right that the skyrocketing profits of the drug and insurance industries are paid for by the skyrocketing premiums that come from the pockets of the American people.

This is not who we are. And this is not who we have to be.

In the past few months, I’ve heard stories like Amy’s at town halls we’ve held in New Hampshire and here in Iowa, and all across the country. Stories from people who are hanging on by a thread because of the stack of medical bills they can’t pay. People who don’t know where else to turn for help, but who do know that when it comes to health care, we have talked, tinkered, and let this crisis fester for decades. People who watch as

“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
Weekly Meditation

Answered Prayers...

Read Psalm 138
Verse of Concentration Psalm 138:3

“When I pray, you answer me, and encourage me by giving me the strength I need.”

Psalm 138:3 NIV

We know prayer changes things. We have seen it time and again in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. But do we give God thanks for answered prayer or even acknowledge that He’s given us the strength to endure? If we don’t, now would be a good time to start.

Prayer is a conversation with God. God has taken time out to tend to his children. In our conversations with him, He gives us direction, instruction, and guidance to move us along on our journey, and into a place of righteousness. Part of being in a conversation with someone is listening. We need to learn how to sit quietly and listen for our instructions from God.

In our prayer time, we want to go offer praise, worship and thanksgiving, unto Him for His loving-kindness, truth, and faithfulness. We should exalt Him above all! Psalm 55:16-17, says: “As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.” So when we call, know He’ll answer, and then give Him “thanks!”

Michelle Harris
Elpis Fellowship

Regional cooperation essential, metropolitan Detroit leaders say

MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich. (AP) - The Detroit area’s salvation depends on overcoming historic barriers such as racial animosity and strife between city and suburbs while teaming up to develop a stronger regional economy, civic leaders said Wednesday.

“We need to embrace regionalism. We need to make it a way of life,” Edsel B. Ford II, leader of the “One D” initiative, said during a session kicking off the annual Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference.

Ford, great-grandson of auto magnate Henry Ford, said the unity metro Detroit achieved while planning and hosting the 2006 Super Bowl needed to be sustained for the area to compete successfully in the world economy.

One D is designed to help lead that effort, he said. It’s a coalition of civic groups that have pledged to make regional cooperation their top priority, which “requires more than selflessness,” Ford said.

“It requires us to acknowledge, first and foremost, that we are fiduciaries of our communities. That is hard to do.”

Founding members of One D are the Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan, the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, Detroit Regional Chamber, Detroit Renaissance, New Detroit Inc. and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

Surveys by the groups indicate a cross-section of residents want the region to work together on economic prosperity, education, transit, race relations and quality-of-life amenities such as arts and cultural programs, Ford said.

Despite his personal ties to the auto industry, he acknowledged a more diverse economy was essential.

“Historically, southeastern Michigan has been subject to wild economic swings,” Ford said. “The auto industry is a great industry but if we continue to tie the bulk of our entire regional economy to it, we will continue to feel its every fluctuation.”

The area continues to rank among the most racially segregated in the nation, he added. “We have got to get past that. Let’s celebrate our diversity instead.”

Shirley Stancato, president and CEO of New Detroit, said she was optimistic about prospects for better racial ties.

“Leaders in Detroit and its suburbs are working more closely than in the past, while historically white suburban counties such as Macomb and Oakland are getting more black residents, she said.

“This region doesn’t look today like it did 20 years ago,” Stancato said. “I see people coming together across all kinds of lines.”

State of Iowa is an EEO/AA Employer

This position supports the training and development department. The unique market-place structure of the program creates a fast-paced work environment with a focus on marketing, customer service, and innovation. The incumbent will perform administrative program duties to support the expansion and delivery of training and organizational development services to government organizations. Annual Salary range: $34,091.20 – $50,148.80

Roles and responsibilities: Schedule training sessions; Prepare conference rooms and materials; Review and process billings and invoices; Investigate and resolve customer complaints; Maintain an Access database of training services scheduled and provided; Create queries and reports to consolidate and present the data; Conduct market research and prepare and distribute marketing materials.

Required Qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university and experience equal to one year of full-time administrative or technical support work.

Desirables: College level coursework and/or experience in marketing, training and organizational development, and business and public administration.

Essential Functions and Competencies: Proficiency in Microsoft Outlook, Access, Excel, and Word. Ability to communicate orally and in writing with a variety of vendors and customers. Accuracy and attention to detail in entering, compiling, computing and proofreading data and information.

Ability to prepare training session classrooms, including setting up and arranging chairs, tables, electronic equipment (i.e. projector, laptop), supplies, and materials.

To apply: applicants must submit a cover letter and resume with their application by 6/30/2007 online at http://das.hre.iowa.gov/iowa.jobs.html (Req # 2091BR). In addition to the online application, applicants may submit their cover letter and resume via mail to Cindy Axne, Program Manager c/o Leslie Davenport Performance & Development Solutions, Department of Administrative Services – Human Resources Enterprise, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 E Locust, Des Moines, IA 50319; fax to (515) 281-7970; or e-mail to Leslie.davenport@iowa.gov.

The State of Iowa is an EEO/AA Employer

Community Treatment Coordinator

The Fifth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services is seeking a Community Treatment Coordinator (Certified Addictions Counselor) for the Men’s Treatment Program located at Fort Des Moines Complex, Des Moines, IA. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS- Must have a current Certified Addictions Counselor with the State of Iowa Division of Substance Abuse. Salary range $41,828.80-$63,627.20. Applications must be filled out entirely, a detailed resume, and a copy of transcripts before consideration for this position must be submitted to the address below. Application resume deadline is until the position is filled.

Personnel Department
Equitable Bldg-Ste. 317
604 Locust St.
Des Moines, IA
50309

EEO/AA Employer

Women and Minorities are encourage to apply

THE DIFFERENCE IS INSIDE US

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.iowalhealth.org.
Your Schools, Your Community…Our Future

Our schools need your vision! As a parent, student, teacher, employer, or taxpayer, you have a stake in the future and success of the Des Moines Public Schools. The Des Moines School Board has been seeking input and participation from the community in planning and developing a vision for the future of the Des Moines Public Schools. The community has been and continues to participate in this process through a variety of activities, which will conclude in July 2007. Focus groups and surveys have already been conducted to assist the Board in framing initial goals and a strategic plan that will be finalized with input received from Des Moines residents at several upcoming Community Forums.

We are pleased to invite all residents of the Des Moines Public School District to attend one of several Community Forums taking place throughout the district. The Community Forums will help shape the long-term vision of the Des Moines School Board as it anticipates student and community needs for future years. At the forums you will have a chance to hear and comment on the ideas and priorities the Board is considering in its planning process. Your participation will ensure the voices of Des Moines residents are heard as the Board looks to a strong future. We hope you can take time to make this crucial investment in our schools.

You may select the most convenient for you to attend of the Community Forums, held at the following locations and times:

- Monday, June 4, 2007
  6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  Hoover High School Cafeteria
  4800 Aurora Avenue
  Des Moines, IA 50310

- Tuesday, June 5, 2007
  9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
  Hoyt Middle School Cafeteria
  2700 East 42nd Street
  Des Moines, IA 50317

- Wednesday, June 6, 2007
  6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  East High School Cafeteria
  815 East 13th Street
  Des Moines, IA 50316

- Thursday, June 7, 2007 *
  6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  Lincoln South at Kurtz High School Cafeteria
  1000 SW Porter Avenue
  Des Moines, IA 50315

- Saturday, June 9, 2007
  10 a.m. to Noon
  Willard Elementary School Cafeteria
  2941 Dean Avenue
  Des Moines, IA 50317

- Monday June 11, 2007
  6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  North High School Cafeteria
  501 Holcomb Avenue
  Des Moines, IA 50313

- Tuesday, June 12, 2007
  6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  Roosevelt High School Cafeteria
  4419 Center Street
  Des Moines, IA 50312

- Wednesday, June 13, 2007
  6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  McCombs Middle School Cafeteria
  201 County Line Road
  Des Moines, IA 50320

- Thursday, June 14, 2007 **
  6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  Monroe Elementary School Cafeteria
  2250 30th Street
  Des Moines, IA 50310

If you have questions about the Community Forums, please contact Sarah Dixon Gale at 243-2000 or sdixon@sppg.com. For a list of upcoming activities and other ways to get involved, check out www.dmps.k12.ia.us.

* Se dispondrá de traducción al español el siete de junio en el Foro de la Comunidad en Lincoln South en la escuela Kurtz High.

** American Sign Language interpretation will be available at the June 14th Community Forum held at Monroe Elementary School.

“Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by it’s light.”

– Joseph Pulitzer

---

**Free**

Child Health Clinic

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

Co-Sponsored by:
Iowa Methodist Medical Center
Iowa Department of Public Health
Corinthian Baptist Church

For further information
phone 243-4073

---

**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

CALL: 287-6428

---

Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.

--MARK 10:14
Remarks of Senator Barack Obama “Cutting Costs and Covering America : A 21st Century Health Care System”

June 4, 2007

Health Speech: Continued from page 3

every year, candidates offer up detailed health care plans with great fanfare and promise, only to see them crushed under the weight of Washington politics and drug and insurance industry lobbying once the campaign is over.

Well this cannot be one of those years. We have reached a point in this country where the rising cost of health care has put too many families and businesses on a collision course with financial ruin and left too many without coverage at all; a course that Democrats and Republicans, small business owners and CEOs have all come to agree is not sustainable or acceptable any longer.

We often hear the statistic that there are 45 million uninsured Americans. But the biggest reason why they don’t have insurance is the same reason why those do have it are struggling to pay their medical bills – it’s just too expensive.

Health care premiums have risen nearly 90% in the past six years. That’s four times faster than wages have gone up. Like the Chicos family, nearly half of all Iowans have said that they’ve had to cut back on food and heating expenses because of high health care costs. 11 million insured Americans spent more than a quarter of their salary on health care last year. And over half of all personal bankruptcies are now caused by medical bills.

Businesses aren’t faring much better. Over half of all small businesses can no longer afford to insure their workers, and so many others have responded to rising costs by laying off workers or shutting their doors for good. Some of the biggest corporations in America, giants of industry like GM and Ford, are watching foreign businesses in the nation. One insurance company CEO received a $125 million salary that same year, and has been given stock options worth over $1 billion. As an added perk, he and his wife get free prescriptions for life.

Since President Bush took office, the single fastest growing component of health care spending has been administrative costs and profits for insurance companies. Coming in a close second is the amount we spend on prescription drugs. In 2006, five of the biggest drug and insurance companies were among the fifty most profitable businesses in the nation. One insurance company CEO received a $125 million salary that same year, and has been given stock options worth over $1 billion. As an added perk, he and his wife get free prescription drugs for the rest of their lives.

Now, making this kind of money costs money, which is why the insurance companies have also spent millions on lobbying and campaign contributions over the last ten years to block the kind of reform we need. They’ve been pretty good at it too, preventing the sale of cheaper prescription drugs and defeating attempts to make it harder for insurance companies to deny coverage on the basis of a preexisting condition.

Look, it’s perfectly understandable for a business to try and make a profit, and every American has the right to make their case to the people who represent us in Washington.

But I also believe that every American has the right to affordable health care. I believe that the millions of Americans who can’t take their children to a doctor when they get sick have that right. I believe that people like Amy and Lane Chicos who are on the brink of losing everything they own have that right. And I believe that no amount of industry profiteering and lobbying should stand in the way of that right any longer.

That’s not who we are. We now face an opportunity – and an obligation – to turn the page on the failed politics of yesterday’s health care debates. It’s time to bring together businesses, the medical community, and members of both parties around a comprehensive solution to this crisis, and it’s time to let the drug and insurance industries know that while they’ll get a seat at the table, they don’t get to buy every chair.

We can do this. The climate is far different than it was the last time we tried this in the early nineties. Since then, rising costs have caused many more businesses to back reform, and in states from Massachusetts to California, Democratic and Republican governors and legislatures have been way ahead of Washington in passing increasingly bolder initiatives to cover the uninsured and cut costs.

We’ve had some success in Illinois as well. As a state senator, I brought Republicans and Democrats together to pass legislation insuring 20,000 more children and 65,000 more parents. I authored and passed a bill cracking down on hospital price gouging of uninsured patients, and helped expand coverage for routine care. And I passed a law that put Illinois on a path to universal coverage.

It’s a goal I believe we can achieve on a national level with the health care plan I’m outlining today. The very first promise I made on this campaign was that as president, I will sign a universal health care plan into law by the end of my first term in office. Today I want to lay out the details of that plan – a plan that not only guarantees coverage for every American, but also brings down the cost of health care and reduces every family’s premiums by as much as $2500. This second part is important because, in the end, coverage without cost containment will only shift our burdens, not relieve them. So we will
Remarks of Senator Barack Obama “Cutting Costs and Covering America: A 21st Century Health Care System”

June 4, 2007

Page 7 • Iowa Bystander

Is your company serious about diversity in the workplace advertise your jobs in The Iowa Bystander!
### Summer Food Service Sites Announced

Des Moines Public Schools again this year will sponsor the federally-funded Summer Food Service Program. Free meals will be made available to ALL children 18 years of age or under residing in the areas served by the Des Moines Public Schools. All sites serve lunch. Some sites serve breakfast and lunch.

Meals will be available beginning on June 5 or June 6 at most locations but and are available daily except on Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday July 4, 2007. The start date for each site is listed below, and the times listed are approximate. Participation factors may result in some sites closing earlier than anticipated. Check with the site nearest you for details or call the Food & Nutrition Management Office at 242-7636.

Breakfast will be served approximately 30 minutes and lunch approximately 45 minutes. Also listed below are the anticipated start and anticipated ending dates for the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archie Brooks Comm.</th>
<th>11:15 a.m.</th>
<th>Garfield &amp; Dixon</th>
<th>06/05/07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.E. 5th &amp; Hartfort</td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Drake Park</td>
<td>08/17/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashfield Park</td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>King Elementary</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>24th &amp; Cottage Grove</td>
<td>1849 Forest</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East 18th &amp; Lyon</td>
<td>08/17/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/06/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke Park</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Madison Elementary</td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>1601 Crocker</td>
<td>0806 E Hoffman</td>
<td>06/11/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East 7th &amp; University</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/06/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callanan Middle School</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Evelyn K. Davis Park</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>3000 Cambridge Street</td>
<td>1641 Forest</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>06/18/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320 East 16th</td>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/13/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol View Elementary</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Findley Elementary</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>3000 Cambridge Street</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320 East 16th</td>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/13/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cateil Elementary</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Four Mile Comm. Ctr</td>
<td>8:15 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>3711 Easton Blvd</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3101 East 12th</td>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/17/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheston Park</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Gatchell Church</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>1909 M.L. King Parkway</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th &amp; Day</td>
<td>06/18/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/17/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield Park</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Harding Middle School</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>203 East Euclid</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>06/11/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.E. 26th &amp; Scott</td>
<td>06/12/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/06/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus Park</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Hiatt Middle School</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>1214 E 15th Street</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.E. 2nd &amp; Indianola Rd.</td>
<td>06/06/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/17/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crivaro Park</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Hoyt Middle School</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>2700 E 42nd Street</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.E. 10th</td>
<td>06/06/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowley Park</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Willard Elementary</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>06/07/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>1216 25th Ct</td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.E. 25th</td>
<td>06/05/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/17/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John R. Grubb YMCA
8:15 a.m.
11:45 a.m.
1611 N 11th Street
06/05/07
08/17/07

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 President & CEO • Jonathan R. Narcisse
Publisher • Jerald Bramley, Sr.
Associate Publisher • Gaynelle Narcisse

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.

Iowa Bystander Is Published Weekly By:
New Iowa Bystander Company
P.O. Box AR • Des Moines, IA 50303
Phone: 515-280-8092 or 515-471-5092
iowabytanderarticles@yahoo.com

Advertise your jobline in Bystander!

What do you think?
Submit your insights and issues with a photo to:
iowabytanderarticles@yahoo.com

---

People pay for what they do, and still more for what they have allowed themselves to become. And they pay for it very simply; by the lives they lead.

James Baldwin (1924-1987)
Polk County Health Department to Hold Diabetes Day

On Friday, June 8, 2007, from 8am - 12 noon, Polk County Health Department will hold a “Diabetes Day” at its clinic at 1907 Carpenter Avenue in Des Moines. Spanish interpreters will be available.

“During their visit, someone with diabetes will be able to meet with a Drake pharmacist, a dietician, a diabetic educator and a nurse practitioner. They will receive over $500 worth of services for free”, said Pam Lester, RN, Polk County Health Department Nurse Educator.

Diabetes is a progressive disease. In time the body can become more resistant to the natural insulin produced by the body. The American Diabetic Association recommends a comprehensive approach that includes medication and lifestyle adjustments in diet and exercise.

“We will provide screenings, education about medication, and care management information for people with diabetes, or, those at risk for diabetes, said Terri Henkels, Polk County Health Department Director. It is recommended that people fast for 8 hours.

Diabetes often goes undetected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that over six million people in the United States have diabetes but don’t know they have it. Polk County Health Department began providing free diabetes screenings, earlier this year. Forty people have been identified with impaired fasting glucose and eighteen people people have been diagnostic as diabetic.

Screenings will be available, free of charge, to any Polk County resident. “Patients diagnosed with diabetes will receive free care, except for their medication. They will also receive a free, diabetic meter and a discounted price on strips and lancets”, said Nancy Thurtell, ARNP, Polk County Health Department Nurse Practitioner. Additional strips, at a reduced cost, are available while supplies last.

DSM Library News

Meet Author Bill Geist

Bill Geist will speak on Wednesday, June 6, at 6:30 PM. This program will be held at Drake Campus’ Sheslow Auditorium. Throughout his career, Bill Geist’s most popular stories have been about slightly odd but loveable individuals. Coming on the heels of his 5,600-mile RV trip across our fair land, Bill will discuss his newest book, Way off the Road: Discovering the Peculiar Charms of Small Town America, a hilarious and compelling mix of stories about the folks he has met during his twenty years of life on the road. Along the wacky and wonderful way, Geist discovered firsthand how life in fly-over America can be odd, strangely fascinating, hysterical, and anything but boring.

Meet Author Shirley Damsgaard

Iowa author Shirley Damsgaard, will be at the Central Library, Saturday, June 9, at 2:30 PM. Shirley Damsgaard writes a popular series of books about a librarian that just happens to be a witch who solves murder mysteries. She will discuss her fourth Ophelia and Abby mystery, Witch Hunt, which again touches delightfully upon the paranormal.

Ophelia Jensen, the book’s main character, is a small-town librarian who has finally begun to embrace her lot as one of the “chosen”—a psychic and folk magick practitioner, a.k.a. a witch. Expert loving guidance from her magically adept grandmother Abby helps—and adopting Tink, an exceptionally talented teenage medium, has given Ophelia’s life new purpose . . . until a brutal murder clouds the sunshine of their days.

It may take more than a good incantation to get to the bottom of this crime—combined with ghosts, crooked cops, and a small army of outlaw bikers thrown into this devil’s brew.
**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.

---

**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.

---

**OMNI Internet**

*www.iowalink.com*

Get on the NET

Friendly local service

10 years!

(515) 244-6664

440 11th St., #708, Des Moines, IA 50309

---

**Another Reason WHY**

Don L. Williams

(515) 400-6708

DLWilliams@iwawreality.com

---

**Spectrum Resources**

Innovative Career Training Systems

Jerald C. Brantley CEO

1700 Anonymous Ave

Des Moines, IA 50314

(515) 288-7399

Email: jbrantley@speciarmresoucen.com

---

**Iowa Bystander • Page 10 June 4, 2007**

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.
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 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.

**Church Schedule:**
- Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
- "Showers of Blessing" Fellowship & Prayer Service 15 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.

**King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church**
Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr., Pastor
1201 Day Street
Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Ministry Days & Times

**Sunday School:**
- 9:45 a.m.

**Sunday Morning Worship:**
- 11:00 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m.

**Nursery Available**

**Philosophy**

- How shall they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDiv
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Monday School: 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday School: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church**
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

**Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church**
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDiv
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Monday School: 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday School: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Website: www.mtambaptistdsm.org

**New Friend Church of God In Christ**
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097

**MTA Baptist Church**
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
PITTSBURGH (AP) - Friends, relatives and local officials stood before the dilapidated building where August Wilson was born to memorialize the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright who used his neighborhood as a backdrop to chronicle the black experience in 20th-century America.

The state dedicated a blue and gold historical marker at 1727 Bedford Ave., the home where Wilson grew up with his brothers and sisters, to the applause of family, friends and residents of the Hill District neighborhood.

Wilson died Oct. 2, 2005, at the age of 60 of liver cancer. His landmark dramas, such as "Fences" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," were part of an astounding 10-play cycle, nine of which Wilson set in Pittsburgh.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright who memorializes playwright August Wilson's childhood

"Today is a cause for celebration. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has recognized one of its own, a historic day, an honor I wish my father was here to see," Wilson's daughter, Sakina Ansari, said at a plaque unveiling ceremony.

"He puts the Hill District on the map."

Frederick August Kittel was born in 1945 to Daisy Wilson and Frederick Kittel, a baker who emigrated from Germany. After his father died, the boy known in the Hill District as Freddy Kittel changed his name to August Wilson, honoring his mother by taking her maiden name.

Paul Ellis, Wilson's nephew, bought the decaying brick house two years ago. He said he hopes the historical marker will be the first step in revitalizing the building.

"It's a sense of accomplishment. I feel like we're one step closer to memorializing a well-deserved legacy," Ellis said.

Friends recalled the Italian family that lived on one side of Wilson's family and the Jewish family that lived on the other. The three families living side-by-side were characteristic of the neighborhood's unique multicultural nature, setting it apart from other segregated areas of Pittsburgh.

"I'm still here to see," Wilson's daughter, Thelma W. Lovette, 91, recalled being sent to young Freddy's home as a school district social worker.

"They sent him to him because he was truant from school for many days. They thought he was playing hooky from school but he was actually at the Wylie Avenue library reading everything he could," said Lovette, who attended the memorial service with her daughter. "It's just such a pleasure to see the finished product."


BALTIMORE (AP) - Former U.S. Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a champion of civil rights, has died, Greater Baltimore Medical Center confirmed Tuesday.

Mitchell, 85, had been in intensive care and died on Monday, hospital spokesman Michael Schwartzberg said.

He had been living in a nursing home since suffering a series of strokes several years earlier and died of complications from pneumonia, The (Baltimore) Sun reported.

Mitchell was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Baltimore in 1970 and was Maryland's first black congressman. The Democrat served eight terms before stepping down in 1986 to be the running mate to former attorney general Stephen Sachs in his unsuccessful bid for governor.

"Throughout his life, Congressman Mitchell dedicated himself to opening the doors to opportunity for all Americans," said Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, a Democrat who now holds the 7th District seat. "He was a true servant leader, never concerning himself about fame or fortune but, rather, devoting himself entirely to uplifting the people he represented."

Mitchell was a member of one of the country's prominent civil rights families, dubbed the "black Kennedys" for their extensive record of service.

His brother Clarence Mitchell Jr. helped shepherd the major civil rights legislation of the late 1950s and 1960s as the principal lobbyist for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and was known as the 101st Senator. Parren Mitchell's sister-in-law, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, was the long-time head and legal counsel of the Maryland NAACP.

Parren Mitchell was also a political mentor to former NAAACP President and Congressman Kweisi Mfume, who said his death was like losing a second father.

"He helped shape and define an era," Mfume said. "He wasn't just going up against a doctrine, lots of times he was going up against the government, and that required a special courage. He had the heart of a lion."

Born in Baltimore in 1922, Parren Mitchell was a graduate of Morgan State College and earned a Master's degree from the University of Maryland, according to biographical information supplied by Cummings' office.

He also served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army during World War II, and received the Purple Heart awarded for being wounded in combat. Before his election to Congress, Mitchell worked in the administrations of Baltimore Mayors Theodore R. McKeldin and Thomas J. D'Alesandro III, and Gov. J. Millard Tawes.

As a congressman, he fought for legislation requiring local governments to set aside 10 percent of federal grants to hire minority contractors.

He gained attention during the Wedtech scandal in the 1980s, initiating the congressional investigation that ironically enthused his nephews, state Sens. Clarence Mitchell III and Michael Mitchell. The two were sentenced to federal prison for their part in the scandal, which involved bribes to obtain no-bid military contracts.

Parren Mitchell was never accused of wrongdoing in the case.