Fear God, Tell the Truth & Make Money • The Oldest Black Publication West of the Mississippi • Vol. 116 No. 47 • June 9, 2007

Iowa Bystander

Established 1894

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Des Moines, IA
Permit #3314

Vanessa Lemon Buie graduates with top honors!

Vanessa Lemon Buie, daughter of Frederick and Valeska Buie, graduated at the top of her 2007 Class at Valley High School in West Des Moines, with a 4.039 GPA and was recognized with the braids she wears for serving as a Student Government Officer for four years.

She was an officer in the National Honor Society and a co-captain of the track team and varsity cheer team. She was recognized as an Iowa Scholar and by the National Council on Youth Leadership.

Vanessa will attend the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in the fall and major in Biomedical Engineering. She hopes to become a physician one day. Vanessa received numerous scholarships this year including the National and Presidential Scholarships from the University of Minnesota, as well as from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Dollars for Scholars and the Valley HS Student Council. She was an All-State Cheerleader. She will cheer at the Iowa Shrine Bowl in July.

She will cheer on the University of Minnesota Squad this fall.

Vanessa was recognized for the 4th year by the National Black Child Development Institute – Des Moines Affiliate at their annual awards banquet on June 3rd. She will be one of the MCs for the event. Vanessa also serves as the Central Region Teen President of Jack and Jill of America and will be the presiding officer at the Teen Regional Conference in Denver, Colorado, June 21st through June 24th.

The Browns Celebrate 27 Years

The Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating their Pastor and Wife, Rev. Sherman L. Brown, and Sis. Charlene Pack Brown 27th Anniversary of Service.

The Celebration began on last Sunday with the Rev. Jelani Kafela, Pastor of the Imani Christian Fellowship Temple, Panmoma, CA preaching the Word. The Shiloh Mass Choir under the direction of Minister of Music, Deacon Thomas Braxton, Jr., accompanied by Deaconess Alice Clinton Boyd, Bro. Willie Smith, and Bro. Arnold Woods, III. Afternoon services, the Word was preached by the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas, Rev. Keith A. Ratliff was the Worship Leader along with Pastor Rev. James Wright and their Choirs. Wednesday night Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey was the guest preacher, “An Appointment with Jesus”. Pastor Elder John Hall served as the Worship Leader with a heartfelt response to the welcome by Pastor Suzanne Erwin, along with choirs.

Saturday will be “First Ladies” Night for our First Lady, Sis. Charlene P. Brown with various first ladies and guest soloist and choirs giving a “Word of Encouragement”. Sis. MarrGena McMillion, Chairlady, Sunday, June 10 the father of Pastor Brown, Rev. Arthur E. Mills, his choir and members from Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church, Waterloo, Iowa will be preaching the morning message at 10:00am. At 3:30pm the Rev. Dr. Floyd E. Brown, brother of Pastor Brown will be preaching the message and his choir from Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Sioux City, Iowa.

Everyone is welcome to join the Celebration on Sunday. Submitted by Rev. Dr. Carolyn King, Publicity and Deacon Thomas Braxton, Jr. Deacon Sylvester and Deaconess Rosetta Green Chairpersons and the Entire Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Family. The church is located at: 1213 Scott Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

The “Project Destiny” sales tax vote is just a few weeks away. The July 10th election will come at a time when many voters are not thinking about voting. Now is the time to let Iowa Bystander know what you think of “Project Destiny.” Send your letters to the editor to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com.

Seated: Chauncey Mallett, Sr. and Jeana Clark. Standing (left to right) Minnie Mallard, Alisha Bush and Micaela Mallett.

Read about the Iowa Juneteenth Book Project on page 9.

Mary Ann Spicer reports on the first of many community education forums and asks the question: “Why is it no matter what we do we cannot reach parents who have students in the Des Moines School System...?” Story on page 8

Nikolle Ross speaks out on the importance of an individual vote as an issue that needs to be addressed. The statement “I am only one vote and I don’t matter” needs to be eliminated. The voice of every citizen needs to be heard.

Story on page 5

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