Vote No!
July 10th

An Iowa Bystander commentary

On July 10th voters in Polk County, Warren County and Dallas County will be asked to vote on Project Destiny. See page 3 and page 6 for details.

Even if Project Destiny, as it is currently structured, was a good idea the only responsible vote would still be no.

First, we are being asked to trust the same people that gave us CIETC leadership, including Ramona Cunningham (middle) and Archie Brooks (right) to handle the Project Destiny money.

How many times do they get to burn us? How many times do they think they get to burn us? How many times do they think we'll go along with their promises only to discover we've been lied to again.

In short, we have to vote no on Project Destiny if for no other reason than the people that created it have proven they are not accountable stewards of the public good.

That isn’t the only reason to vote no on Destiny, however. Project Destiny was constructed without your input.

A few months ago the proponents of this plan asked what we thought of it. Not that we would be able to change it. Much like a cook that’s completed the meal we were “allowed” to sample the sauce. We were offered a chance to add a dash of salt, a bit of pepper but beyond that we are being asked to digest and consume a meal not of our choosing. That meal, a massive 17% tax increase.

So even if Project Destiny made sense on the surface we would have to vote no on July 10th. It is bad politics to support public policy of this nature without having meaningful opportunities for input at conception.

On top of that Project Destiny isn’t the end of the tax increase seeking season. Soon we’ll be asked to support a nearly $200 million Polk County Courthouse project. Then we’ll be asked to renew the current local option tax funding our area schools.

Can you afford to continue to support tax hikes that, once collected, are not used for the purposes for which they were introduced?

Remember when Prairie Meadow’s profits...
Human Capital

An investment in our productivity is to invest in human capital. Human capital is a term used by economist’s that means knowledge and skills that workers acquire through education training and experience. Human capital includes the skills that are accumulated in early childhood programs, grade school, high school, college, and on-the-job training for adults in the work force. Although education, training, and experience are less tangible than lathes, bulldozers, and buildings, human capital is like physical capital in many ways. Like physical capital, human capital raises a nation’s ability to produce goods and services.

Also like physical capital, human capital is a produced factor of production. Producing human capital requires inputs in the form of teachers, libraries, and student time. Indeed, students can be viewed as “workers” who have the important job of producing the human capital that will be used in future production.

Human capital the knowledge and skills that workers acquire through education training and experience are foundational and should be used to raise a community’s ability to produce goods and services that can equal great revenue returns. Having the physical infrastructures in place in the Des Moines community we have an opportunity to begin training our young people in the art of human capital.

For example we could have a entrepreneur’s club in the John R. Grubb YMCA, if we fill it up to watch our kids shoot hoops we can bring them to a club that prepares them to compete in business. The Forest avenue library, the downtown library, the Poppa John center and a host of other resources should be used to increase the levels of human capital immediately with training programs for adults as well as youth.

Now its time to put up or shut up, if you have any interest in this plan contact me, and we can sit down and put the plan in motion. Moving toward change JB...

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Vote No: Continued from page 1

were going to fund education and property tax relief? Exactly.

Remember when the new jail wasn’t going to be followed by another re- quest? Could they have botched that anymore?

As for who benefits from this tax increase let’s break it down.

Renters gain no tax relief from Project Destiny. Is the landlord really going to lower the rent?

Home owners can currently deduct property taxes but not sales taxes. So why save a dollar in property taxes that will cost you between two to three dollars before it’s over?

As for the big property owners, some of whom pay their CEOs mil- lions - they should vote yes on Project Destiny. It’s kind of cool they’ve de- veloped a way to justify their gi- nousosal salaries. Unfortunately their plan molest the peasantry. Prince John would be proud.

As for the cultural amenities do you get to use the bike trails? Don’t get me wrong but the groups that will get money from the 15 member board haven’t wanted us to “partake” of their offerings for a long, long time. What’s going to change - getting our money?

What pimp has ever treated his woman to the “tea” in the harbor. Vote no on Tues- day, July 10th!
I'm Voting No!

Commentary by Jon Neiderbach

I'm voting against the “Project Destiny” proposal. After careful study and listening to those supporting the proposal, I've come to the conclusion that it is seriously flawed and should be defeated. “Project Destiny” is a bad deal for most voters and a very bad deal for many low and moderate income voters. It is the wrong tax at the wrong time, with revenues spent on the wrong things. The business campaign for it has been disgraceful, and the tri-county agreement governing how millions of dollars would be spent violates basic tenets of democracy and fairness, and may be unconstitutional.

Many low and moderate income families will pay more in increased sales tax than they save in property tax. Nearly all renters will just pay more — only property owners get any property tax relief — and homeowners who itemize their deductions will pay more state and federal income taxes because they will see their deductible property taxes replaced with non-deductible sales taxes.

Thousands of working families are being squeezed right now by skyrocketing energy prices. They are trying to keep their head above water; they do not need to be asked to pay more sales taxes on staples like diapers, laundry soap, clothes, shoes, car parts, etc. in order to fund tax cuts for large corporations.

Those pushing this sales tax hold out the sales tax that Denver and Pittsburgh approved for arts and recreation. What they don't tell you is that the downtown in those cities was in terrible shape and the sales tax was seen as their last chance. In sharp contrast Des Moines and the suburban communities are booming, with thousands of new housing units being built, new commercial shopping areas springing up, a strong system of bicycle and running trails, many new arts and music venues opening. We already have a brand new downtown library, a brand new convention facility, a recently renovated ballpark… the list goes on. Unlike Denver and Pittsburgh we don’t need to jumpstart development with funds from a sales tax.

The “Project Destiny” campaign has been full of half truths and outright misrepresentations, with mailings that don’t admit the sales tax would increase. The only reason the “Project Destiny” folks scheduled the election for mid-July, right after a major holiday, was to keep the number of voters down. Huge corporate contributions have funded high-priced political consultants and slick mailings. Central Iowa deserves better than this.

The millions of dollars for “Quality of Life” improvements would be controlled by a 15-member board. Dallas and Warren counties are over-represented on this board: they have 6 of the 15 seats, when they have only 20% of the population. To make matters worse, a three-quarters vote is required for any spending plan to be approved, meaning that four of the six Dallas/Warren representatives could dictate to Polk County, despite the fact that Polk County has over 408,000 residents and Dallas and Warren counties combined have fewer than 100,000. This is a gross violation of the well established one-man, one-vote rule and the latter from obligations and benefits of the well established one-man, one-vote rule and the latter from obligations and benefits of the project.

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I urge you to vote NO on Tuesday, July 10th. Let’s defeat this very flawed scheme and start work on a new plan that truly addresses our challenges in a better way.

Jon Neiderbach is former president of the Des Moines School Board and a long time grassroots community advocate.

Project Destiny: A few facts

By The Independent Iowan Staff

TII works to engage the public in constructive and civil conversation about important public issues. Without advocating support or opposition, a few “facts” relating to Project Destiny should be viewed from their best public source.

Some opponents have argued that tax “relief,” or reduction (some jurisdictions, for at least the first 4 years) disproportionately favors commercial property owners vs. residential owners.

The by which commercial property would be favored in the portion of sales tax dedicated to property tax relief does NOT constitute a “50:1” ratio vs. residential property tax relief, as suggested in one recent meeting of community leaders;

For all of Polk County, the breakdown for commercial and industrial vs. residential evaluations is $8.1 Billion vs. $19.1 Billion; while that may seem to imply significantly greater tax relief for residential property, taxes are assessed on just under 50% of residential valuation and just under 100% for commercial and industrial valuations. So, overall tax relief benefits are close to equal between the two classes of property, slightly favoring residential property (source: Abstract of Assessment for 2006 Polk/Dallas County Assessor… http://www.assess.co.polk.ia.us/web/info/abstract/2006/pages.html).

Within the Des Moines city limits, the comparable total assessments are $3.3 Billion vs. $6.8 Billion, with similarly (near equal) comparable benefits between commercial/industrial and residential properties.

Non-Contiguous (not bordering) municipalities can either approve or disapprove Project Destiny provisions and benefits for their own community. According to Polk County Auditor (and Elections Commissioner) Jamie Fitzgerald (http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/auditor.htm), incorporated cities and towns such as Bondurant and Altoona which do NOT share a border with another incorporated town within the three counties of Warren, Polk and Dallas are voting independently of other incorporated areas; they “stand alone” in the ballotling over Project Destiny obligations and benefits. Another interesting twist within the Iowa Law which governs such elections and the notion of “standing alone” on issue ballotling is that unincorporated areas are considered “standing alone” in the ballotling for such issues — even though they do border incorporated towns and cities; presumably this feature served as a necessary compromise with rural legislators when developing the law governing these special elections.

The three counties also are voting, essentially, separately — with vote totals for one county having NO impact upon vote tallies for another county; this is extended to the point where West Des Moines is voting as two separate territories — one in Dallas County and one in Polk; the West Des Moines section in Dallas County will be heavily impacted by the larger vote of “contiguous” Waukee. It is entirely possible — perhaps likely — that urban and contiguous communities in Dallas County will vote in favor of “Destiny,” while rural and non-contiguous smaller communities vote against — thereby both exempting and excluding the latter from obligations and benefits of the ballot issue.

In a phone conversation with TII staff, community activist Bob Mickle (http://www.shermanhill.org/special/Robertmickle.html) said that, using 2000 Census figures for the city of Des Moines, total households equaled 80,000; among those, “low-to-moderate” income households (under $33,000/year) equaled 33,000 with an approximate rent vs. ownership ratio of 60-40.

Mr. Mickle’s concerns were that $84 of property tax “relief” would cost $160 in sales tax, for the projected average household; he cited Iowa Department of Revenue estimates for his source.

Publisher of state’s oldest black newspaper on life support

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - The publisher of Mississippi’s oldest black newspaper was hospitalized Tuesday in Jackson.

Jackson Advocate Publisher Charles Tisdale is on life support at the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Veterans Administration Medical Center in Jackson, said family friend Stephanie Parker-Weaver, who was at the hospital on Tuesday.

Parker-Weaver said Tisdale has been in the hospital since Saturday. Tisdale, 80, had come to the medical center for routine dialysis, and he was found unresponsive in his room, said Parker-Weaver.

The Jackson Advocate has published since 1938, covering issues that include civil rights, jail suicides and the state’s college desegregation case. Tisdale has been the publisher since the 1970s.
2007 Election Law Changes

Submitted by Hon. Jamie Fitzgerald
Polk County Auditor and Elections Commissioner

Same Day Registration

There have been numerous studies throughout the United States to ascertain why so few of our citizens participate in our election process. An often cited factor for this dilemma includes making the voter registration and voting process seamless.

Iowa law previously had a 10 day dead-
line to register to vote, although you could change your address at the polls if you moved within the county you were regis-
tered. This caused problems for many of our metro area residents who moved within a city, but across a county line.

Minnesota has had same day registra-
tion for thirty years and has enjoyed higher participation rates amongst their citizens. They also have a provision that allows a registered voter to attest for up to 15 indi-
viduals that are not registered and do not have the required identification to register and vote on Election Day.

A safeguard the legislature put in the Iowa law allows for a voter to attest for only one individual within their own precinct.

Iowa law also requires photo identification whereas Minnesota need to provide ad-
ditional information.

Iowa law also requires county auditors to send address confirmation to all those that registered on Election Day, whereas Minnesota sends to just a 3% sampling.

The new law, which goes into effect on January 1, 2008, allows Iowans with proof of residency and a photo identification to register on Election Day. Voters must also sign an oath acknowledging they know that any untruthful information on the registra-
tion could result in a fine of up to $7,500 and up to 5 years in jail.

This new law may cause many counties to increase the number of poll workers at each site and Election Day staff in their offices.

Polk County is looking at a combination of increasing our number of poll workers in areas that historically have a higher rate of address turnover (university and apartment areas) along with utilizing technology to assist our voters to ensure that they go to the proper polling location.

Equipment

Polk County uses optical scan and ballot marking devices in our polling places. We chose these devices because they provided a paper trail that could be used to recreate an entire election.

The ballot marking device allows any Polk County to have the ballot read to them, to increase the size of the fonts and to vote in private. When they have made their se-
lections, they will deposit their ballot into the optical scan device like everyone else.

We have had incredible feedback about the convenience and ease of using these machines.

No Party and High School

Poll workers

Poll workers are essential to conducting fair and well-run elections, and their work helps ensure that all the citizens of Iowa have a positive experience at the polls.

I supported the bill that allows auditors to use high school poll workers. I believe this will help some of our counties get desperately needed poll workers for Election Day.

I am not sure if Polk County will utilize this new workforce as we do not split our election day shifts and have had limited, if any, problems finding people who would like to serve the public on election day.

I also supported the use of no-party poll workers at the precincts. Many times we have had to turn away a very qualified and energetic potential poll worker because of the requirement that they had to be a member of one of the two Iowa recognized parties.

Polk County is fortunate enough to have a good workforce to pull poll workers. We also utilize our website, bi-weekly newsletter and press releases to encourage residents to sign up to be poll workers.

For more information goto: (http://
auditor.co.polk.ia.us/election.htm.)

Second Chance Absentee

Voting

At the polling sites, voters cannot “over vote” their ballot without it being returned to them. Over voting is voting for more than the maximum number of candidates allowed. If the voter does this we issue them another ballot.

In absentee voting, voters must fill out the affidavit envelope correctly in order for their vote to count. Under Administrative Rules, voters must sign, put their address where are registered to vote and date the affidavit enve-
lope for their vote to count. The law now requires county auditors to open the return carrier envelope (the enve-
lope that is used to mail the ballot back) and inform the voters of any deficiencies with their affidavit envelope. It should be noted that the ballot sits inside another envelope (secrecy envelope) inside the affidavit. These envelopes will not be opened until Election Day.

Elimination of Absentee Ballot

Couriers

A law that took effect July 1, 2007 was the elimination of the absentee ballot courier requirements. Previous law required anyone wishing to deliver a ballot to the Auditor’s office, besides their own, to take a class held by the auditor. This included de-

delivery of a spouse’s ballot back) and inform the voters of any deficiencies with their affidavit envelope. It should be noted that the ballot sits inside another envelope (secrecy envelope) inside the affidavit. These envelopes will not be opened until Election Day.

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.

IOWA HEALTH

Des Moines

Methodist • Lutheran • Blank

Weekly Meditation

Our Attitude For Worship

Luke 7:36-38
Verse of Concentration Luke 7:38

“Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Luke warm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.” - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

~ Joseph Pulitzer
The Project Destiny sales tax increase: A citizen’s questions

A commentary submitted by William Johnson

The Greater Des Moines Partnership has initiated Project Destiny to increase sales taxes again. They want to raise sales taxes sixteen percent in Polk, Warren, and Dallas County as a substitute for property taxes and to pay for certain “regional cultural and recreational amenities.” One third of the expected revenue ($24,750,000 per year) is promised to “dollar-for-dollar” property tax reduction. Another third ($24,750,000 per year), may be used by local governments for local purposes or additional property tax reduction Based on an estimate by the Iowa Department of Revenue, property owners will get fifty-two cents in property tax relief for every extra dollar they pay in increased sales taxes. People who don’t own property will get nothing from the promise of tax relief. All they will get is a sixteen percent increase in sales taxes!

Who in his right mind would pay a dollar to get fifty-two cents back? Why would people who don’t own property vote for this promise? What assurance is there that tax relief will be equitable? Which property owners actually get relief?

The remaining third - $25,000,000 per year - will be governed by an appointed (not elected) fifteen-member “Tri-County Regional Authority Board” and will be used to pay for the “regional cultural and recreational amenities.” Polk County will have nine members, Warren county three, and Dallas County three.

Does this not raise some issues about home rule, cities and counties right to govern themselves? Who are the people who will actually control this money and decide what’s best for us? Who will control them to assure accountability and honesty? Who will actually benefit?

The sales tax campaign

The Project Destiny campaign is not a “grass roots campaign.” It is being carried out by professional strategists and consultants paid by large property owners who will benefit the most from property tax reduction. It is a one-sided stealth campaign. Project Destiny presentations are made to select groups without including those who question the wisdom and fairness of the proposed tax increase. The election is scheduled on July 10 (when many people are on vacation) in order to reduce voter turnout and increase the weight of absentee ballots collected through the efforts of the hired strategists. The sales tax promoters have a lot of money to spend.

Will big money dominate again? Will voters be misled? Why should we let them get away with it?

Fair taxes and truth

The proposed increase in actual dollars paid is sixteen percent! People who don’t understand this mathematical fact should ask an arithmetic teacher. Those who do understand it and continue to say otherwise are intentionally misrepresenting the rate of increase and should be ashamed.

Why can’t the promoters of the sales tax admit this mathematical reality?

The sales tax is regressive. It’s a fact: The sales tax is regressive, meaning poor people pay a greater share of their income in sales taxes than do high-income people (The Des Moines Register March 10, 1999). Why should money be taken from the pockets of low-income and fixed-income people who can’t afford it to pay for someone else’s tax relief and pet projects?

Other questions

If property taxes need fixing, why not do the fixing instead of imposing another unfair tax? If “cultural and recreational amenities” are wanted, why can’t the big corporations pay for them with the money they are spending to raise the sales taxes?

If more revenue is needed, why can’t local governments request authority for a surtax based on income?

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If more revenue is needed, why can’t local governments request authority for a surtax based on income?

William Johnson lives in Des Moines and is a piano teacher.

Jury awards $6.2M to Los Angeles firefighter in discrimination

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A jury awarded $6.2 million (euro4.5 million) to a firefighter who said she was harassed by colleagues because she is black and a lesbian. The harassment included someone mixing urine with her mouthwash, she said.

Brenda Lee’s lawsuit against the Los Angeles Fire Department also claimed her superiors made derogatory comments about her and forced her to perform strenuous exercises without proper safety precautions because of her race and sexual orientation.

Tuesday’s jury payout was the largest in a string of recent settlements of cases alleging discrimination and retaliation against women and minorities within the Fire Department.

Judge Michael L. Stern ordered the panel back to court Thursday for a second phase of the trial involving possible punitive damages against Lee’s former supervisor, Capt. Christopher Hare.

Rob Kitson, Lee’s attorney, declined to comment on the case because it was ongoing.

A spokesman for the city attorney’s office, Jonathan Diamond, said the city would “review its options going forward.”

Two other firefighters in the discrimination lawsuit already have won jury awards after their cases were tried separately.

In April, a jury awarded $1.7 million (euro1.2 million) to Lewis Bressler, who claimed he was forced to retire for backing Lee in her claims of discrimination. Gary Mellinger, who alleged the department retaliated against him after he helped Lee, settled with the city for $350,000 (euro257,012) after a jury found in his favor.

Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.  
--Mark 10:14
CCI to celebrate growth from its Waterloo roots

By Jessica Mayo

Margaret Mead (pictured) said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” But the real power comes when that small group of people catches the imagination of those around them and becomes a movement.

That was the case during the 1950’s and 1960’s civil rights movement, and we’re seeing the same thing today in a grassroots organization called Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement.

On Friday, July 13, Des Moines will welcome a key figure from the civil rights movement: Reverend Jim Lawson, mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Lawson will give the keynote speech at the Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement annual convention, issuing the challenge to “Stand up, Stand together!” against injustice.

He’ll be right at home with Iowa CCI. The organization began over thirty years ago to involve the community in addressing issues in low income neighborhoods. Following in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, and Cesar Chavez, CCI began using community organizing to create social change. This approach focuses on empowering the affected individuals and making them part of the process of fighting injustice and standing up for what’s right.

Today, the small group that began in Waterloo has grown to almost 4,000 members. With committed members across the state of Iowa, this small group has grown to be a force to be reckoned with. And their changing the world one issue at a time.

Over the last thirty-two years, CCI has tackled a broad range of issues. When members identified a problem in their community, CCI helped them organize and win important victories. Some of the issues they have addressed include affordable housing, farm credit, health care, substandard rental housing, utility rates, fair farm prices, sustainable agriculture, neighborhood schools, youth concerns, and drug dealing.

Their success stories demonstrate the power of people when united for justice. CCI has helped Iowa families reclaim over $5 million dollars from predatory lenders. Their lending agreements with banks have resulted in $100 million in mortgage loans for low and moderate income neighborhoods. Their work in rural areas has helped stop over four dozen factory farms from building, safeguarding the communities’ health, environment, and quality of life.

At the heart of CCI’s mission is helping ordinary people organize on whatever social, economic, and environmental justice issues are most important to them. Often, the issues that impact us most directly are those that are in our immediate neighborhood. CCI works with several neighborhood associations in Des Moines, including the Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement, the Laurel Hill Neighborhood Association, and the Ingleside Hills neighborhood. Their organizing helped close hundreds of drug houses, preserved critical bus routes, and cut down industrial pollution in residential areas.

Like the civil rights movement, CCI’s success is rooted in its diversity. Their members are black and white, urban and rural, immigrants and lifelong Iowans. And on July 13, they will come together at the annual CCI convention to celebrate another successful year of organizing.

Reverend Lawson’s keynote address is a much anticipated event. He played an integral role in the formation of the community organizing for the civil rights movement. Most significantly, he introduced non-violent strategies that he learned while studying with Gandhi. He was one of the original Freedom Riders, who used the interstate bus system to proclaim their right to integrate, as well as an active participant in sit-ins. Dr. King considered him an important mentor, implementing many of Lawsons’ ideas and strategies into the movement for desegregation and equal rights.

Like CCI, Reverend Lawson continues to fight for justice today. He is particularly involved in the immigrants’ and workers’ rights movements. Reverend Lawson also trains activists in nonviolent strategy, preparing the next generation to continue his work in creating a more just society. CCI is working towards that goal in Des Moines and across the state. All are invited to join them on July 13 to learn more about the organization and to hear Reverend Lawson’s keynote address. You can be a part of this group of committed individuals, and you too can help change the world.

Tickets are $15 in advance or $20 at the door. To order, call 515-282-0484 or visit www.iowacci.org. Doors open at 7:45 p.m.; keynote begins at 8 p.m. Location: Hotel Fort Des Moines, 10th and Walnut.

Career Opportunities In Journalism

Have you ever wanted to make a difference but instead you feel like you’re stuck in a dead-end 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.

Metropolitan Arts Alliance and Gateway Dance Theatre bring African Dance to the Metro area

Metropolitan Arts Alliance and Gateway Dance Theatre have teamed up to bring an African dance couple Celia and Christian Bambara to Des Moines July 9-13. As a part of Metropolitan Arts Education on Location: Summer, the workshops will be studying traditional African Dance and are free to the public.

With family ties in Des Moines, Celia and Christian come to us from Chicago. After teaching and studying traditional African dance in Los Angeles, they relocated there to start their own dance company. Their studies have also taken them to all parts of the world including France, Haiti, Cuba, and West Africa. They have studied the traditional dance styles of Katherine Dunham, Lester Horton, and Viviane Gauthier.

The classes will be held at Gateway Dance Theatre, 315 East 5th Street, Suite 12. Classes for youth will be Monday through Friday, July 9 - 13 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m with a demonstration in the new Mercy Auditorium on Friday, July 13 at 1:00 p.m. There will also be an evening class from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. for adults Monday through Friday (excluding Thursday). All classes are free and open to the public. Early registration is encouraged by contacting Gateway Dance Theatre at 283-8383.

Celia and Christian will also be doing a special workshop on Wednesday, July 11 with Multicultural Educational Program at King Elementary in conjunction with Metropolitan Arts Education on Location: Summer. This program brings artists into area parks, libraries, community centers and cultural venues to hold one-hour workshops with kids. The theme for this year is Art Safari: Capturing Art From Around the World, with a focus on cultural diversity. All activities are geared towards children ages 9-12 and are open and free to the public.

A complete schedule of Education On Location summer activities is available on the Metropolitan Arts web site at www.metroarts.org.

For more information on the Metropolitan Arts Education On Location program, please call 515-280-3222 or send email to info@metroarts.org.

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Notice of Election

Local Option Tax Election

County of Polk, State of Iowa

July 10, 2007

For Voters in the City of Des Moines in Polk County

Public Notice: is hereby given to the qualified electors of the City of Des Moines in the County of Polk, State of Iowa, that a Special Local Option Tax Election will be held Tuesday, July 10, 2007. At this election, the voters who reside in the City of Des Moines in Polk County shall vote on Public Measure Letter A, the imposition of a Local Sales and Services Tax. A brief description of Public Measure Letter A is published within this publication. The polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM and the polling places to be used are the General Election Polling Places published within this publication.

Shall the following Public Measure be adopted?

Public Measure Letter A

A local sales and services tax shall be imposed in the Cities of Clive, Des Moines, Grimes, Johnston, Pleasant Hill, Urbandale, West Des Moines and Windsor Heights at the rate of one percent (1%) to be effective from January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2017.

(Shall the ballot to be used at this election shall be in substantially the form published within this publication. All qualified electors of the City of Des Moines are hereby notified to appear at said time and place, each voter to vote at the polling place designated or as authorized by law. All voters are also advised as to the requirements of voter registration in order to be eligible to vote at said election. The above notice is given by order of the City of Des Moines and the Polk County Commissioner of Elections.

Electors with a disability that need an accommodation to participate in this election should contact the Polk County Election Office at 286-3247 for assistance.

For more information go to: http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/special07-10.htm

Jamie Fitzgerald, Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections
Responsibilities

Annual Gifts Program: Identify, develop and implement strategies for the cultivation of 100-150 prospective donors of $250 and up; train 22 board members and others for solicitations; identify donor prospects and maintain records on current donors; facilitate solicitations for the Executive Director and board leadership; develop and coordinate an annual comprehensive work plan that will include specific fund raising goals and targets for proposals, appeals and campaigns with the Executive Director; prepare reports. Work with the National ACLU Office of Planned Giving to develop and implement strategies for marketing planned giving products to ACLU donors and members.

Fund Raising and Public Education Events: Coordinate and implement events, including the annual dinner, house parties, civil liberties briefings, video screenings, and conferences throughout the year. Attend events of other Iowa organizations, when appropriate.

Outreach: Develop innovative strategies to communicate about the ACLU and civil liberties issues to the community at large, in particular students and young adults. Implement strategies for creating and cultivating relationships with like-minded groups and organizations, and networking with community leaders and other activists. Develop ongoing methods for retaining ACLU members as well.

Foundation Grants Program: Begin the process of establishing an affiliate foundation grants program, including strategic prospect research, scheduling, writing, grant preparation and reporting.

Gift Recording & Acknowledgement: Assure the proper recording, tracking and reporting of gifts from donors. Maintain accurate and current data files, including giving histories, profiles, interactions, coordinate with the ACLU National Office regarding changes and updates. Become proficient in National ACLU sharing formulas, produce reports for annual audits, and verify reconciliation of funds between the Iowa affiliate and the National office.

Materials: Maintain responsibility for developing the messages, materials, and explanations of our work used in all development campaigns and outreach programs.

General staff leadership responsibilities: Attend ACLU functions, such as the annual dinner, staff and membership conferences both in and out-of-state, and Iowa board meetings. Assist the Executive Director in maintaining a strong team spirit within the office.

Qualifications

* Bachelor’s degree and/or equivalent combination of education and experience.
* Advanced degree desirable.
* Ideally three or more years experience in fundraising focusing on individual major gifts, particularly in advocacy or community-based organizations. CFRE accreditation desirable.
* Firm commitment to the mission and principles of the ACLU.
* Comprehensive understanding of nonprofit resource development and the methods of fundraising.
* Broad understanding of multi-faceted campaign planning, implementation and management.
* Demonstrated leadership skills; experience in successfully directing volunteers.
* Strong interpersonal skills and comfort working with donors, volunteers and staff.
* Excellent oral, written and verbal communication skills with experience developing successful written donor communications, outreach and marketing materials, and assisting with website revisions.
* Superior organization skills; detail-oriented with strong follow-through and the ability to meet tight deadlines.
* Computer proficiency, including list/database management.
* Access to and ability to drive a vehicle around the state of Iowa as needed.
* Creative, result-oriented, self-starting, willing to learn, and able to manage an aggressive schedule, working beyond 9-5 as needed.

Personal Characteristics

Ideally, the successful candidate will be:

* Personally committed to advancing the ACLU’s values, mission, goals and programs, with an understanding of the range of civil liberties issues and their implications.
* An energetic person who can handle and prioritize multiple activities and responsibilities; a self-starter and finisher.
* A team player that inspires collaboration and functions decisively; flexible and well organized.
* Emotionally mature and self-confident, with a sense of humor in order to maintain balance and perspective.

Compensation and Benefits

The position is full-time at 35 hours per week, including occasional evenings and semi-monthly weekend board meetings, usually in Des Moines. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. An excellent benefit package is provided, including health and dental insurance and/or a monthly stipend and/or a medical reimbursement account, ample sick leave and vacation time, parking allowance, pension, and long-term disability coverage. Flex-time and limited telecommuting are possibilities.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume by August 31 to:

ACLU of Iowa
Human Resources Dept.
505 5th Avenue, Suite 901
Des Moines, IA 50309-2316
or by email to job@aclu-ia.org.

Resumes reviewed upon receipt. Target beginning date for position is October 1, or until the right person is found. For more information, email job@aclu-ia.org or call the Executive Director at 515/243-3988, x11.

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Iowa Pride Network to receive $100,000 grant to hire full-time outreach coordinator

Iowa Pride Network has received a $100,000 grant from the Liberty Hill Foundation’s Queer Youth Fund, a fund that makes multi-year grants to grassroots, local, state, or national nonprofit organizations working to improve the quality of life among gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (GLBTQQ) youth.

“We’re extremely thankful to be selected as one of this year’s recipients. This will allow us to broaden the scope of our leadership development and student organizing projects; and better meet the needs of Iowa’s GLBTQQ youth by hiring a full-time Outreach Coordinator,” stated Ryan Roemerman, Iowa Pride Network Director. The Queer Youth Fund awards grants to innovative and effective leadership development programs or organizing projects that empower GLBTQQ youth to improve societal conditions affecting GLBTQQ youth and which make a long-term difference to their movement. A group of committed donors developed the fund to provide large multi-year grants to groups that address the multitude of issues queer youth face as they acknowledge and celebrate their sexuality and identity, and seek to become empowered leaders in their communities.

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Philly hosts mock funeral for Washington’s slaves

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - A mock funeral was held Tuesday for nine slaves owned by George Washington during his presidency, part of a celebration of Black Independence Day in Philadelphia.

The ceremony was held near the slaves’ quarters in the President’s House, not far from the Liberty Bell Center. The event was also close to a hidden passageway used by the slaves, discovered in May by archaeologists excavating the site. Designers and city officials are in talks about how to highlight the slaves’ lives in a new memorial of the President’s House.

“It’s a funeral, but it’s designed to free their souls, to once again make them independent before America’s Independence Day,” said Michael Coard, an attorney who leads a group working to have slavery recognized at the site.

Speakers included Jerry Mondesire, president of the Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP, and Rep. Bob Brady, D-Pa., who strongly supported the slaves’ lives being highlighted after visiting the archaeological dig.

“It’s astounding, absolutely astounding,” Brady told The Associated Press last month. “I’m going to fight to keep it open, I’ll tell you that much.”

At the funeral, nine children read eulogies for each of Washington’s slaves. Organizers closed the event with a ceremonial walk.

Presidential candidate Barack Obama, expected to be in Philadelphia this week, sent his support for the funeral. Coard said.

“It’s a step in the right direction,” Coard said.

“This is the treatment for racism in America. It’s good for blacks. It’s good for whites. It’s good for America.”
NEW ORLEANS (AP) - The return of the three-day Essence Music Festival to New Orleans for the first time since Hurricane Katrina is an occasion performers and fans alike say is cause for celebration.

It’s a “homecoming, a reunion,” said Lionel Richie, who performed at the festival in 2005 - just weeks before Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005, flooding 80 percent of New Orleans.

The festival, which runs Thursday through Saturday, had been held in New Orleans over the Fourth of July weekend since its launch in 1995. Last year it was moved to Texas because of Katrina.

The festival, which runs Thursday through Saturday, had been held in New Orleans over the Fourth of July weekend since its launch in 1995. Last year it was moved to Texas because of Katrina.

Richie is among the dozens of hip-hop, R&B and gospel artists slated to perform this year.

“I would have played in New Orleans no matter what,” said Richie, who performs Saturday, the festival’s closing day.

He also was among the headline performers in the first New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival after Katrina in the spring of 2006.

“The incentive for coming is what the city is going through,” he said. “I can’t imagine a city with that much life in it dying.”

Among the others performing this year are The O’Jays with Keith Sweat and Johnny Gill, Ludacris, Ciara, Beyonce, Robin Thicke, Mary J. Blige, Chris Brown and Kelly Rowland.

Besides the music, Essence will host free, daily “empowerment” seminars with top voices in the black community tackling social issues. For example, Public Enemy’s Chuck D is a rapper and hip-hop statesman slated to participate in a panel discussion on Saturday.

Democratic presidential hopeful Illinois Sen. Barack Obama confirmed an appearance the opening night of the festival on Thursday. He is slated to take the stage after 10 p.m. during the concert portion of the festival.

The concerts are being held at the Louisiana Superdome, while the empowerment seminars are being held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Both buildings sheltered masses after Katrina, and storm damage left the buildings incapable of hosting the 2006 music festival, which was moved to Houston’s Reliant Park.

The Superdome reopened in September 2006 after a $185 million renovation and conventions and meetings have returned to the Morial center.

Essence recently agreed to a deal to keep it in the city through 2009.

On July 9, 1997 the Nevada Athletic Commission revoked Mike Tyson’s boxing license and fined him $3 million after he bit Evander Holyfield’s ear in a title match.
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - The head of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Foundation says the group’s scholarship program may be a political target because of “racial targeting.”

In a letter to media outlets, Rep. Alma Adams defended the foundation’s practices and questioned the motives of Joe Sinsheimer, a Democrat who has criticized the foundation for handing out scholarship money to relatives of five lawmakers.

“What’s up, anyway, when a registered white Democrat viciously attacks black Democratic legislators,” wrote Adams, D-Guilford. “His scrutiny appears racially directed.”

Sinsheimer also has filed complaints against black Reps. Mary McAllister, D-Cumberland, and Thomas Wright, D-New Hanover. But he also ran a Web site dedicated to removing former House Speaker Jim Black, who is white, and has been critical of other white officials, including Democratic Reps. Jim Harrell and Nelson Cole, and state Utilities Commissioner Bill Culpepper.

“Good government needs to be colorblind,” Sinsheimer said. “If I find people that I believe have violated the law, I’m going to continue to file complaints whether they are white legislators or African-American legislators.”

Spike Lee’s latest film project to highlight role of black American soldiers in World War II

ROME (AP) - Spike Lee announced plans Tuesday to make a movie about the struggle against Nazi occupiers in Italy during World War II that he hopes will highlight the contributions of black American soldiers who fought and died to liberate Europe.

The film will spotlight the courage of black soldiers who, despite suffering discrimination back home, offered a contribution that has so far gone largely unnoticed in other Hollywood movies, Lee said.

“We have black people who are fighting for democracy who at the same time are classified as second-class citizens,” the 50-year-old filmmaker said. “That is why I’d like to do a film to show how these brave black men, despite all the hardship they were going through, still pushed that aside and fought for the greater good.”

Based on the novel “Miracle at St. Anna” by James McBride, the movie will tell the story of four black American soldiers, all members of the Army’s all-black 92nd “Buffalo Soldier” Division, who are trapped behind enemy lines in an Italian village in Tuscany in 1944.

Goldman family purchase rights to Simpson’s canceled book

MIAMI (AP) - The family of Ron Goldman has acquired the rights to O.J. Simpson’s canceled book, “If I Did It,” from a court appointed bankruptcy trustee in a settlement agreement reached Monday.

The book rights will be held in the name of Ron Goldman LLC, Goldman family attorney David Cook said.

Goldman was slain along with Simpson’s ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994. The Goldmans want the book’s proceeds included as part of a nearly $33.5 million civil jury award they have been trying to collect for almost a decade.

“Ron Goldman LLC will own Simpson’s name, likeness, signature and story and will hawk it to satisfy this terrible judgment,” Justice has arrived in Miami,” Cook said.

The Goldmans own the copyright, media rights and movie rights. They also acquired Simpson’s name, likeness, life story and right of publicity in connection with the book, according to court documents.

The Goldmans want to rename the book “Confessions of a Double Murderer” and plan to shop it around.

“The contract and the rights are going to be circulated among every major publisher, literary agent, movie and TV producer and entertainment lawyer in the United States,” Cook said.

According to the settlement, the Goldmans must pay the bankruptcy trustee ten percent of the first $4 million in gross proceeds and a percentage of all proceeds beyond that.

Simpson’s lawyer said the bankruptcy trustee doesn’t have the right to sell anything on behalf of his client.

“The bankruptcy trustee does not have the right to sell Simpson’s name, likeness, image and the like,” O.J. Simpson’s attorney Yale L. Galanter said.

Last month, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge A. Jay Cristol paved the way for Monday settlement by upholding the Goldmans’ right to their claim. He also ruled that a company started by Simpson’s daughter, Arnelle, was set up “to perpetuate fraud.”

Cristol said that Lorraine Brooke Associates, which owned the rights to the book, can be considered as belonging to the former football star. The company is run by Simpson’s daughter, Arnelle.

O.J. Simpson’s book contract with HarperCollins, and a money trail showing $630,000 transferred from the publisher to LBA and then to Simpson for his expenses, confirm his connection to the company, Cristol said.

A telephone message could not be left after hours at the office of John D. Galanter, the attorney for Simpson’s daughter. He did not immediately return an e-mail Monday night.

An after hours telephone message left at the offices of the independent trustee, Drew Dillworth, was not immediately returned. An e-mail message seeking comment was also not immediately returned.

Iowa Bytander 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 Bytander

President & CEO • Jonathan R. Narcisse

Publisher • Jerald Brantley, Sr.

Associate Publisher • Gaynelle Narcisse

Guidelines For Submitting Copy:

Iowa Bytander 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 Bytander.

Pictures submitted with articles become the property of Iowa Bytander unless otherwise specified at the time of submission. All photos should clearly identify those in the picture, their order and the relevance of the photo.

Finally, all submitted copy or photos should contain a phone number and the name of the contact person who can be reached if questions arise.

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American Republic Insurance Company
“Diabetes Day” at Polk County Health Department

On Friday, July 13, 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.

“We are very concerned about the family members of diabetics. If your parent is, or was, diabetic and they were diagnosed before the age of 30, you have a one in ten chance of being diabetic as well” said Nancy Thurtell, ARNP, Polk County Health Department Nurse Practitioner.

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 screening services earlier this year. Forty-seven people have been identified with impaired fasting glucose and twenty-one people have been diagnosed as diabetic.

“During their visit, someone with diabetes will be able to meet with, a dietician, a diabetic educator and a nurse practitioner. They will receive over $425 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.

Screenings will be available, free of charge, to any Polk County resident. Patients diagnosed with diabetes will receive free care, except for their medication.

Des Moines University group heads to Belize

Des Moines University faculty and 12 students have headed to Belize on a medical service trip. They will stay in Dangriga, a town on the southern coast of the country until July 15. Each morning the team of 25 will divide into three groups, one surgical team and two nurses. Dangriga hospital and three primary care teams to serve outlying villages.

The trip is being coordinated through the Des Moines University’s Global Health department as a learning experience for students and a way to reach out to those in need.

“In the United States the medical facilities and patient population are on the rest of the world’s reality,” said Azadeh Toofaninejad, a DMU D.O. student from the class of 2009. “I feel honored and privileged to be a medical student and am anxious about this opportunity for a medical mission trip to Belize. It will be an inspiring challenge of practicing the medicine I know with minimum equipment and facilities.

The group will work in a government-run hospital that has functioning operating rooms but lacks a surgeon, adequate supplies and medication. They will also perform cervical cancer screenings. An estimated 1,000 patients will be treated, mostly women and children.

The trip has been coordinated through Peacework (www.peacework.org) and will be similar to last year’s trip from DMU to Belize with a group of 17.

This year, 10 D.O. students, two P.A. students and one student from the Mercy College of Health Sciences are making the trip. DMU faculty on the trip include Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine Kendall Reed, D.O., Yogesh Shah, M.D., associate dean for global health at DMU, and Jolene Kelly, PA-C, director of DMU’s Physician Assistant Program. Three other physicians, four registered nurses and an EMT will also be along.

“Our trip to Belize is an outstanding opportunity to cultivate and grow a desire to care for underserved populations abroad and here in the U.S.” explained Jon Van Der Veer, a D.O. student from the class of 2009. “Studies show that students who participate in global health experiences during their medical education are more likely to return and serve as physicians.”

Making the trip costs $1,200 per traveler plus the cost of medicine and supplies. The students, with the help of Dr. Reed and Dr. Shah, raised $20,997.23 for this trip. Many of the 40 donations came from DMU faculty, staff, alumni and local doctors. Donors from Iowa, Minnesota and Arizona also contributed to the medical supplies and medication the group will take.

Dr. Shah reminded, “No matter where we live, our well-being depends on how health issues are managed around the world. Any infectious disease is only a plane ride away.”

NAACP marches against basing promotions on standardized tests

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) - About 300 to 400 people marched from the Governor’s Mansion to the state Capitol on Saturday to protest Louisiana’s requirement that students pass a statewide test to be promoted from fourth and eighth grades.

The LEAP test is a big reason that 7 percent of Louisiana’s high-school students drop out, said Lamont Cole, president of the Baton Rouge chapter of the NAACP.

“Standardized tests should be used to address the academic needs of students and then once you find out what the weaknesses are, you should work to address those weaknesses and then build on the strengths, not punish children who may have some academic deficiencies,” he said.

The 7 percent figure - the most recent available - is from the 2004-05 school year. Although it was higher than the 6.6 percent of 2001-2002, it was down slightly from 7.4 percent in 2003-04 and identical to the rate in 2002-03. It was also considerably lower than the double-digit rates of the 1980s and ‘90s.

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test, first used as a promotion test in 2000, measures the basic knowledge of such skills as math and reading for fourth- and eighth-graders. Backers say the test has been a key to ending “social promotions” that leave some students far behind their classmates that they drop out.

“It is grossly unfair to send children to the next grade level if they are not ready,” state Education Superintendent Paul Pastorek said Saturday. “It would be like throwing a child into the deep end of the pool knowing that they had not passed basic swimming lessons. It’s just wrong.”

He said Education Week magazine has rated Louisiana’s accountability and testing policies at the nation’s top for several years. “I am proud of that accomplishment, and everyone in this state should be proud of it,” he said.

Linda Johnson, president of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, said that during the seven years since the test was first given, scores have improved and the gaps between black and white students and between rich and poor students have grown smaller.

Many children give up after failing the test once, said people at the rally.

Jessica Carr, 15, and in the ninth grade, said she failed the LEAP test because her teachers didn’t teach her the material.

“You go through school and when it’s time for the test, it’s a totally different thing - it’s nothing that you learned in school,” she said.

The test is designed to cover what students are supposed to be taught in each grade.

“Just because a teacher taught it, don’t necessarily mean that the kids learned it,” Cole said.
Diverse influx of Africans finds opportunities and some wariness

Among the newest wave of immigrants to the United States is a growing population from Africa. These diverse peoples face a unique assimilation challenge, given America’s racial history - finding a niche between the well-established black and white communities.

WASHINGTON (AP) - They range from surgeons and scholars to illiterate refugees from some of the world’s worst hellholes - a dizzyingly varied stream of African immigrants to the United States. More than 1 million strong and growing, they are enlivening America’s cities and altering how the nation confronts its racial identity.

Some nurture dreams of returning to Africa one day. But many are casting their lot permanently in America, trying to assimilate as they and their children struggle to learn where they fit in a country where black-white relations are a perpetual work-in-progress.

"I cry a lot when I see the people being settled here," Kamau said. "But as soon as you open your mouth to some African-Americans, they look down and listen to each other’s story."

The 2000 Census recorded 881,300 U.S. residents who were born in Africa. By 2005, the number had reached 1.25 million, according Brookings Institution researcher Jill Wilson.

Since 1990, the African population has more than tripled in places as far-flung as Atlanta, Seattle and Minneapolis, where Africans now constitute more than 15 percent of the black population. The biggest magnets are New York City and Washington, including its Maryland and Virginia suburbs.

As director of the African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation, Kamau deals with some of the most hard-off newcomers - dispossessed refugees from war ravaged countries like Somalia, Sudan, Liberia and Sierra Leone. They have been arriving at a pace of roughly 20,000 a year. Many of those from rural areas have never used modern appliances, and some can’t read or write their native languages, let alone English, she said.

"Try a lot when I see the people being settled here," Kamau said. "Some are very frustrated, because the culture is so different from what they know."

The flip side of the refugee influx is a wave of sophisticated professionals. Census data from 2000 shows 43 percent of Africans in the U.S. have college degrees, higher than the adult population as a whole. Compared to African-Americans, the immigrants’ average household income is higher and their jobless rate lower.

They include hardworking couples such as Tigist Mengesha and her husband, Girum - Ethiopians trying to achieve the American dream in the mostly black suburb of Suitland, Maryland.

Girum, 36, was granted asylum in the U.S. in 2002 because of political tensions in Ethiopia. Tigist came two years with their sons Binyam and Fisitu, now 7 and 6.

The family had lived comfortably in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, with their own walled home and servants to look after the children while Girum worked as a bank manager and Tigist as an executive secretary.

Girum resumed his banking career at the bottom, as a teller, but has worked his way up to assistant manager and is pursuing a master’s degree in business.

Tigist is a family counselor at a child development center, advising many Ethiopians and a few African-American parents. "In some ways, life is harder here," she said. "But we have hope - we are adjusting ourselves to the new situation."

She notes that they can’t afford hired help and scramble to raise their sons while working full-time. On the bright side, however, they recently bought a townhouse.

Some Americans, black and white, assume Africans share a common culture with one another, when in fact they may feel no bond with another ethnic group from their own country, let alone with others from distant corners of the continent.

There have been cultural clashes - some serious, some bemusing - as the new Africans fan out across the country. Some polygamous families have settled in the U.S., despite laws forbidding that.

Women’s rights activists and health officials have been on the lookout for cases of female circumcision - illegal in the U.S. but common in some African regions.

Wanjiru Kamau, the Kenyan activist, says many new arrivals find African culture bewildering. She tells them not to look down, but into the eyes of a person they’re speaking to; she has fielded complaints that African nurses, accustomed to noisy hospitals back home, talk too loudly on the job.

Nurses and doctors are among the well-trained Africans settling in America - contributing to concerns that a brain drain to Europe and here is depriving Africa of talent. Some expatriates say they are doing more good in the United States - African immigrants earn enough to send an estimated US$3 billion (euro2.25 billion) a year to relatives back home.

"The migration Americanized the country I was not even born in is allowing me to dream," the University of Minnesota, is optimistic that African immigrants and African-Americans will outgrow any strains, which she blames partly on stereotypes.

"Some Africans view African-Americans as violent, lazy, intellectually inferior - U.S. blacks are taught that the Africans are less civilized, not as capable," she said. "But they’re beginning to realize they’ve been taught lies about each other. They’re starting to understand they share many things in common."

In the District of Columbia and some other cities, friction has arisen between recently arrived Africans and the entrenched, politically powerful black American community. Civic leaders have noted some working-class African-Americans resent the newcomers, fearing threats to their jobs in such fields as health care, civil service and hotel work.

"Sometimes it’s very overwhelming to the African-American community," said Abdulaziz Kamus, an Ethiopian-born activist on immigration issues. "They feel threatened that we are coming here and demanding jobs. If I was an African-American, I would feel the same thing."

In an attempt to smooth the newcomers, the Washington city government last year formed an Office of African Affairs. But even this gesture upset some people - not all black American leaders felt it was needed, and some Africans were disappointed by a lack of dynamism in the office.

Bobby Austin, a vice president at the University of the District of Columbia, is among a few prominent African-Americans in Washington to delve deeply into the tensions and misunderstandings.

He and Kamus have promoted public dialogues between two communities.

"We will have to learn to work with them, and they will have to learn to work with us," Austin said.

While African-Americans’ presence in America goes back to slavery days in the 1600s, the modern surge of Africans arose in the post-independence era in the 1960s and then persisted, driven by war and corrupt government. In the 1990s, the surge increased due to the Diversity Visa Lottery, a federal program boosting immigration from countries that traditionally sent few people.

The largest groups of Africans in the U.S. are from Nigeria, Ethiopia and Ghana, but the influx is diverse. The refugee program, for example, accepts people from roughly two-dozen African countries each year; more than 200,000 African refugees have been taken in since 1980.

Some Americans, black and white, assume Africans share a common culture with one another, when in fact they may feel no bond with another ethnic group from their own country, let alone with others from distant corners of the continent.

There have been cultural clashes - some serious, some bemusing - as the new Africans fan out across the country. Some polygamous families have settled in the U.S., despite laws forbidding that.
Supreme Court ruling creates questions for Topeka’s schools

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision could force the public school system here to modify policies it has used for a decade to keep individual schools racially balanced, attorneys say.

Since the 1990s, the Topeka district has permitted students to transfer from their neighborhood schools to others when it helps improve racial diversity. It also built three elementary “magnet” schools to attract students from across the city.

The transfer policy and the magnet schools were part of the district’s plan for countering housing patterns that had left neighborhood schools too segregated.

The plan was a response to parents reopening the Brown v. Board of Education lawsuit that led to the Supreme Court’s historic 1954 decision declaring segregated schools unconstitutional.

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that public schools can’t use race as a factor in deciding where students can transfer to another school, “Rich told The Topeka Capital-Journal. “It will be more difficult to prevent resegregation.”

Joe Zima, the Topeka school board’s attorney, said he’s still reviewing the Supreme Court’s opinion.

“He said Topeka’s system for assigning students focuses more on testing, while Seattle and Louisville had a ‘blanket’ policy based on race,” said Rich.

The Supreme Court decision left open the possibility of other measures, such as economic status, for improving diversity.

The original Brown lawsuit was in 1951, taking its name from Linda Brown, whose father tried to enroll her in an all-white school near her home but couldn’t. Other black parents also tried to enroll their children in white schools as part of an effort by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to challenge the segregation in elementary schools.

In 1979, 25 years after the Brown ruling, parents reopened the case. While the district argued that racial imbalance in elementary schools was a result of desegregation plans in Seattle and Louisville, Ky., the court disagreed.

“It looks like you’re not allowed to do that anymore,” Carl Gallagher, a Kansas City, Kan., attorney who represented the state during the later Brown litigation, said of the district’s policy.

Bill Rich, a Washburn University law professor who advised parents in the reopened Brown case, agreed.

“The board of education will no longer be able to use race as a deciding factor for whether a student can transfer to another school,” Rich told the Topeka Capital-Journal. “It will be more difficult to prevent resegregation.”

Des Moines Library News

More Awards For Central Library

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced the recipients of its annual RIBA International Awards (formally the RIBA Worldwide Awards), recognizing excellent architectural work conceived by RIBA members around the world.

From the list of the RIBA International Awards, three projects were also selected for the shortlist to the Lubetkin Prize, which is awarded to a building outside the EU by an RIBA member. They are the Des Moines Public Library by David Chipperfield Architects; the Heinz Tower by Foster + Partners; and the Southern Cross Station Grimshaw (working within the Grimshaw Jackson Joint Venture).

Three Chipperfield projects were nominated for awards: The Museum of Modern Literature in Marbach, Germany; The America’s Cup Building “Veles e Vents” in Valencia, Spain; and the Central Library. Acting Director Dorothy Kelley hosted members of the jury for this award when they visited Des Moines in May to conduct an extensive, videotaped tour and interview.

The Des Moines Public Library recently won a silver award in the Building Design & Construction (US trade magazine) “Building Team Awards”. There were five overall winners, one gold, three silver and one bronze. The criteria included quality design and construction, as well as an element of community involvement in the planning.

Iowa Ghost Hunters!

Join in the fun of ghost hunting at a free program open to tweens, teens, and adults. Franklin Avenue Library: Thursday, July 19, 7:00 PM. Call the library at 283-4152 for complete details.

Adult Book Discussions

Whether you are looking for a great book to read at the beach, a little romance or cozy mystery, or just some inspiration, the library’s adult book discussion groups are a great place to discover new books and to recommend your favorite reads. Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 PM, Franklin Avenue Library: The Memory Keeper’s Daughter, by Kim Edwards. Ask at the information desk to borrow a copy.

Cool Off with Summer Movies

Enjoy the air conditioning along with a cool movie—It’s free at your library! Monday, July 9, 2:00-4:00 PM, East Side Library presents Monday Movie Madness: Lassie. Rated G. Bring your popcorn and a pillow. Thursday, July 12, 2:00 PM, Franklin Avenue Library: Watch the movie, Finding Nemo. Rated G.
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.
Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

Church Listings & Weekly Schedules

Burns United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV, Pastor
811 Crocker Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-244-5883
Email: sdpbphiladelphia@msn.com
Church Schedule:
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
“Showers of Blessing” Fellowship & Prayer Service 15 9:00 a.m.
(Saturday)
Wednesday Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Monday Church School at 7:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study at 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service at 6:00 p.m.
Church Business Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 515-262-1931
Des Moines, IA 50316
1639 Garfield Avenue
Health Clinic - 2nd Thursday of Every Month
Sundays - Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Phone: 515-262-1372
Des Moines, IA 50309
Church Schedule:
Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
“Showers of Blessing” Fellowship & Prayer Service 15 9:00 a.m.
(Saturday)
Wednesday Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Ministry Days & Times
Church Schedule:
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
“Showers of Blessing” Fellowship & Prayer Service 15 9:00 a.m.
(Saturday)
Wednesday Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Sunday school
Praise & Worship
New Membership Class
Training or Minister/Evangelist
Nursery Available
Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
Children’s Church
Nursery Available
Mondays 6:00 p.m.
Praise Dance rehearsal
Tuesdays
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Computer Classes for seniors
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Aerobics & Tai-Bo
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Good Samaritan Youth Outreach
Nursery Available
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. Women’s Ministry
6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays
6:00 p.m. Aerobics
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Praise Team
9:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal
Saturday
Ministry - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m. Traditional Service
For information please call 515-288-4419.
Union Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Henry Isaiah Thomas, Pastor
E. University & McCormick Street
Des Moines, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1785
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service
Bro. Donnie Williams: 244-4853 or Bro. Larry Welch: 771-4441
Mission Statement: Our mission is to win the lost, build the believer and
equip the worker so as to make disciples who can make disciples who can
make disciples.
Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:15 a.m.
Wednesdays - Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays - Family Night Ministry for all ages
Wednesdays - Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Saturdays - Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study 10:00am-12:00pm
Esther Circle Mission Society - 1st & 3rd Tues. of Every Month 1:00 p.m.
Busy Bees Mission Society - 2nd & 4th Sat. of Every Month 10:00 a.m.
Health Clinic - Third Tuesday of Every Month 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr., Pastor
619 S.E. 15th Street
Des Moines, IA 50317-7611
Phone: 515-282-3425
Address: 1338-9th Street
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Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey, Pastor
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-262-1931
Des Moines, IA 50316
Church Schedule:
Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School; 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Website: www.corinthianbaptistdsm.org
New Friendship Church of God In Christ
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097
Rev. R.L. Daye
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday: Pastoral Teaching at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study Led By Pastor: 7:00 p.m.
King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 619 S.E. 15th Street • DSM, IA
Phone: 515-282-3425
Pastor: Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1552 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1381
Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1338-9th Street • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-280-9163
Pastor: Rev. Bobby Young
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:00 am., Praise 940 AM
Email Address: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com
St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey, Pastor
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-4073
Des Moines, IA 50316
Church Schedule:
Wednesday Bible Study at 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Tues. & Wed. - Reading Program at 7:00 p.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Website: www.corinthianbaptistdsm.org
...how are they to hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14
Burns United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-244-5883
Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Curtis DeVance, JD, MDIV
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 Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 814 School Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: 515-243-4073
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lee Zachary Maxey
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Website: www.corinthianbaptistdsm.org
...how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:15
...how are they to hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14
The Des Moines Playhouse production of Disney’s High School Musical features (left to right) Amber Wines as Taylor (selected performances) Taylor Kinney as Chad, Sasha Smith as Taylor (selected performances), Tiffany Flory as Gabriella, Sam Button-Harrison as Troy, Christie Burgess as Sharpay and Tony DiMeglio as Ryan. Disney’s High School Musical is July 13-Aug. 5 at The Playhouse. Photo by Steve Gibbons.

Legendary bluesman B.B. King, photographed during a June 10, 2006, concert in Philadelphia, Miss., is embarking on a 16-city summer blues festival tour beginning July 24, 2007. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

Looking for a New Career Opportunity?

Come Join the Bankers Trust Team

We at Bankers Trust are dedicated to providing high quality, financial services through a skilled, professional staff. Bankers Trust has 11 full-service offices located strategically throughout the Des Moines, Grimes, Ankeny, and Altoona communities. Bankers Trust is the largest locally owned bank in Iowa.

Bankers Trust continues to be an advocate of the community by supporting many community organizations and foundations.

Bankers Trust is proud to be an employer which embraces diversity. We welcome applicants that enable the Bank to mirror the market place in which we work and serve.

Bankers Trust is also proud of the exemplary accomplishments we have made in the areas of recruiting, retaining, and promoting a diverse workforce while manufacturing a culture of inclusion.

If you are interested in employment opportunities, please visit our website at www.bankerstrust.com or you may call our 24 hour job line at 246-2825.

Bankers Trust
Human Resources
453 7th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer
Pre-Employment Drug Screen Required