A year in review and a glimpse forward

By Jerald Brantley

Wow. What a year it was. With the elections, the scandals, the possible school closing at Edmunds, the keeping open of the same - where should I begin? How about the beginning?

The start of my publishing career happened last year when Jonathan Narcisse asked me to become the publisher of the Iowa Bystander newspaper. I challenged him and the Bystander for not covering the CITEC scandal and the adverse effect this particular scandal would have on our community.

He agreed the paper had failed the community and then challenged me to take over the Bystander. I said yes to the proposal and the rest as we say is history.

Now let’s look at some of the things that shaped the year that was from July 06 to July 07.

First we must talk about the fact that we have many new faces in power positions at the state, at the Fifth Judicial District and a new city house, on the school board, at the police department, at the NAACP leadership, at the NAACP leadership.

Now is the time for our leadership to get an African American agenda forefront of state lawmakers. We have historic promises that need to be kept. Over the years state lawmakers have promised us, through passed legislation, task forces, study groups, empirical research and incontrovertible findings, action in areas ranging from enforcement of key civil rights to the application of equity in education, access to state contracting, to fair state hiring practices, to crack downs on hate crimes and racial profiling.

To date those legal mandated promises have not been kept but by working closely with our elected officials and the Culver Administration we should have some very pertinent expectations before the next session and then every session after that our agenda should be counted amongst top legislative and administration priorities.

As we engage lawmakers our agenda must be relevant to our community and our leadership must be accountable to engaging our agenda.

Mediacom, the eighth largest cable provider in the United States, had a fight with Sinclair Broadcast Group. Does the Des Moines-based Mediacom invest in the local African American community.

Does it feature African American programming on its Connections Channel? Is it aggressive in the hiring, retention and promotion of African Americans? Is it doing business with the African American community? It runs commercials talking about how they, not Direct TV, put a great deal back into the local economy. Does it put anything of substance back into an African American community that spends millions and millions of dollars with it?

With the Democrats in power and an opportunity to introduce a potent African American agenda what did Iowa find the local NAACP leadership testifying on the hill about - how important channel 17 was for African Americans!

Did Mediacom even purchase a table at the NAACP banquet, afterwards?

Statistically Iowa is the harshest place in the nation for an African American child to live in. Issues that should have been discussed by the local NAACP and with state lawmakers like economic empowerment, equity in education, affordable housing, infant mortality and child health, disparities in incarceration rates, community drug epidemics, rising domestic violence rates, voting access reform, even tax credits to address blight and urban development were passed over to address that all important issue - the devastation it would cause and the injustice it would be to Black Iowans to have to pick up free rabbit ears from Mediacom to keep Fox 17 KDSM.

A year in review: Continued on page 8

National study finds disparities amongst home loans to Blacks

WASHINGTON (AP) - Higher income does not protect blacks from receiving mortgage loans with above-market rates, a new study by a group pushing for reforms to lending laws says.

The report, released by the Washington-based National Community Reinvestment Coalition, concludes that in 2005 blacks in 171 metropolitan areas were at least twice as likely as whites to receive expensive loans.

The study was based on an analysis of nationwide mortgage data collected by the Federal Reserve for the most recent year available.

The report, which analyzed 2.3 million high-cost loans in 380 metro areas, also concluded that while the disparity among blacks and whites existed at all income levels, it was more severe at higher income levels, rather than lower ones.

The study found that middle-class and upper income blacks in 167 metropolitan areas were at least twice as likely as whites with similar incomes to receive loans with high rates. By comparison, there were 70 metropolitan areas where low-income blacks faced a similar likelihood of receiving above-market rates.

Low-income blacks in all areas were more likely to have pricier loans than whites with similar incomes.

The report uses the Federal Reserve’s definition of high-cost loans: mortgages whose rates are at least 3 percentage points above Treasury securities. That definition includes most subprime loans given to people with weak credit records.

The study points to the persistence of discrimination against minorities, said John Taylor, chief executive of the Washington-based group, which has been pushing hard this year for legislation to restrict what it says are widespread abusive lending practices.

“Certainly discrimination has not disappeared in this country, by any stretch,” he said.

Study finds Iowa has nation’s highest prison racial disparity

By DAVID PITT

Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - A new study by a non-profit criminal justice policy group says blacks in Iowa are imprisoned at 13.6 times the white rate in Iowa, the widest disparity in the nation.

The Sentencing Project, a Washington-based organization, released the report Wednesday that examined the racial and ethnic dynamics of prison populations in the United States.

Using Bureau of Justice Statistics from a 2005 publication, the group said blacks in Iowa are imprisoned at a rate more than double the national average. Per 100,000 people, Iowa incarcerates 309 whites and 4,200 blacks, the study said.

Paul Stageberg, administrator of the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, an agency in the Iowa Department of Human Rights, said the study results aren’t surprising, but the causes are subject to interpretation.

“We’ve looked to determine whether or not there is a disparity in sentencing practices over the years and we haven’t found any,” said Stageberg.

“We’ve done a recent review of how long people stay in prison and looked at that by race and essentially we’ve found for releases in fiscal 2006, that there really wasn’t any significant difference in the length of time served by black and white inmates.”

Stageberg said that the disproportionately high black arrest rates in Iowa are likely linked to high poverty rates among blacks and lower educational achievement.

“If you look at blacks in the prison system, on average they are less well educated than whites in the prison system,” Stageberg said. “If you look at rates of poverty, blacks have higher rates of poverty than whites, so these things contribute to criminal activity.”

Nationally, the report finds that blacks are incarcerated at 5.6 times the rate of whites. Hispanics are nearly double the white rate at 1.8 times.

States in the Northeast and Midwest have the greatest black-to-white disparity in incarceration, the report’s authors said.

Second behind Iowa is Vermont with a ratio of 12.5, followed by New Jersey with 12.4 and Connecticut with 12.

States with the lowest black-to-white ratio are Hawaii, with 4.9, Georgia with 3.3 and Mississippi with 3.5.

In Iowa, Vermont, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Wisconsin blacks are incarcerated at more than 10 times the rate of whites, the group said.

“Racial disparities in incarceration reflect a failure of social and economic interventions to address crime effectively and also indicate racial bias in the justice system,” stated Marc Mauer, the group’s executive director.

Prison racial disparity: Continued on page 3
ISED Ventures hosted the Pathways to Prosperity Seminar, an event focused on empowering women and girls to achieve financial self-security. Thanks to the generous support of the Chrysalis Foundation Board and its staff members, under the leadership of Terry Hernandez, ISED Ventures has continued to provide opportunities to empower women and girls to achieve financial success. Back by popular demand, the Pathways to Prosperity event offered a forum for women and girls to gain knowledge, skills, resources and networking opportunities that helps them build a solid financial future. This event was held Saturday, July 14, 2007 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Des Moines, Iowa.

Building on the success of this concept, Ventures welcomed additional sponsors and supporters of this event. Wells Fargo, Prairie Meadows, and American Express have also made a significant investment in the overall funding and implementation of this event. In addition, ISED Ventures receives support and funding for its microenterprise programs from Small Business Administration – Women’s Business Ownership and City of Des Moines – CDBG Funding. Each of these partnerships strengthens the seminar’s ability to reach out to more women and girls and offers a broad array of expanded opportunities for women and girls that are designed to cater to their overall wellbeing.

Featured workshop presenters were well versed in the areas of financial fitness, wellness and health, personal self-development, stress management and overall empowerment. A special session was available for teens — thanks in part to the partnership with Young Women’s Resource Center – Adrienne Evans Windley and staff and Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services – Sandra McGee and staff.

The Pathways to Prosperity Seminar featured special sessions in the areas of maximizing income, financial management – teen banking, promoting a positive self image, holistic well being, dining etiquette, managing stress and healthy dating and relationships. Ventures staff asserts that the seminar helps the organization to achieve its goals by helping women and teen girls increase their knowledge of and access to financial systems, community resources, health and wellness services, and networking opportunities. From the feedback received from participants, the Pathways to Prosperity Empowerment Seminar will hopefully lead to increased numbers of women and girls taking ownership and control of their financial future while also gaining knowledge, skills and resources to improve their overall wellbeing.

Speakers for this event included the following: Wells Fargo Team Members to include Marta Codina and Kent Chesmore – money management classes, Kimberly Ingram — building on financial assets and teen banking; De’Borah Jones – ISED Ventures client and Performance Management Coach — she has expertise in image, etiquette, and communication skills — she facilitated personal development and dining etiquette; A’Lisa Walker – Licensed Social Worker and is actively involved in women and minority health issues and past co-chair of the State of Iowa Minority Task Force Coalition – she facilitated women and girl’s health; Corinne Lambert – Licensed Massage Therapist — serves as a personal coach, mentor and provides therapeutic bodywork. Belinda Creighton Smith - Pastor of Faith Temple Baptist Church and Coordinator for DMC for Black Hawk County, she has a Master of Divinity Degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary and has worked for a Pathways: Continued on page 5

**ISED Ventures’ “Pathways to Prosperity”**

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Small business owners should resist temptation to put every last personal cent into company

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - When a business is in its first years of existence, it's very tempting for an entrepreneur to put every possible cent toward building the company, often at the expense of a personal financial portfolio. Years later, many owners are still neglecting their own finances, believing the investment they've made in a now-successful company is all they need.

Financial advisers vehemently advocate against this very common practice, which can include tapping an owner's home equity to fund a company. Focusing all your financial resources on a business can jeopardize retirements, children's education funds and leave a family struggling in an emergency.

Bob Doyle, president of Doyle Wealth Management Inc. in St. Petersburg, Fla., is sympathetic to the fact that a business can be so engrossing that an owner can make personal financial decisions that aren't the most prudent - he noted that he's a small business owner himself.

"Our largest asset is probably the value of our business," he said. "But I have a 401(k), IRAs, investment accounts."

Doyle likened an owner’s pouring all his or her funds into the business to betting only one stock - something that most investors know is just fool-hardy. "Just as I wouldn't put all my money in Exxon Mobil stock, I wouldn't put all my money into Doyle Wealth Management," he said.

He also warned against raising retirement accounts, which many owners do rather than trying to borrow from family and friends or when bank loans aren’t available. If the business goes south, so do retirement savings - not to mention the fact that the government will take a big bite out of early retirement account withdrawals, charging hefty taxes and penalties.

Many small business owners do realize they need to focus on their personal as well as business finances, although it can be a struggle at first to do both.

Felicia Palmer and her husband, Steven Samuel, started their business, 4Control Media Inc., as a hobby, so they didn’t mind putting their spare cash into it. But when they turned it into a full-time business, one that they needed for their livelihood, their attitude changed - they wanted the business to support them, not vice-versa.

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Once we realized our spending was starting to be significant, we said, "This is a real business and if we're not operating it as a business, we're fooling ourselves," Palmer said. "We can't keep spending money and not get anything back."

When the Jersey City, N.J.-based business became profitable and "we had consistent and steady revenues, we started the process of getting our own personal money in order," Palmer said.

That has included opening IRAs and 401(k)s, investing in mutual funds and making sure they are adequately insured - including disability insurance, so they’ll have income if something happens to one or both of them.

"If times go bad again, we need to be sure we're OK," she said.

Kathy Sacks, who owns Sacks Public Relations in Phoenix, recalled being nervous when she and her husband Brian used their home equity to help fund the magazine they started when they were in their 20s.

"We broke all the rules - you're not supposed to put your personal finances on the line and we did," she said.

The strategy did work for the couple, as they were able to sell their magazine at a nice profit. But that success also encouraged them to keep breaking some of the rules; they each have a business now, and are treating the companies, which also include Brian’s media business bizSanDiego, as investments rather than diverting money into more traditional portfolios. Their home, however, is no longer tied to the companies.

"I know there’s risks associated with this..." Sacks said. But, she explained, "We just feel like, given the experience of having sold our first business, we see value in investing in the business, building it and selling it or coming up with some other exit strategy."

Still, Sacks noted that she and her husband, both in their early 30s, don’t have young children. As they get older, she said, they may decide to diversify their investments.

Despite such success stories, advisers still caution against putting everything into the business - as Doyle put it, "just like they wouldn’t take money from a 401(k) to buy a high-flying Internet startup.

"He noted the high failure rate among new businesses - and, as many small business owners learned after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, any company can suddenly become vulnerable.

Iowa Department of Transportation FY2008 DBE Goal

To comply with 49 CFR part 26.45, the Iowa Department of Transportation establishes its overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal based on the availability of ready, willing, and able DBEs, within Iowa, relative to the availability of all ready, willing, and able businesses within the same industry (hereafter, this proportion is referred to as "the relative availability of DBEs").

Establishing the overall DBE goal involves two primary steps:

1. Determining a base figure for the relative availability of DBEs.
2. Examining evidence in the state to determine what adjustments, if any, are necessary to the base figure to arrive at the overall goal.

The Iowa Department of Transportation is using the same methodology to determine our FY 2008 DBE Goal that was utilized for our FY 2007 DBE Goal. Based on this methodology, the Iowa Department of Transportation has set the following DBE participation goals:

4.6% for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds
4.7% for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funds
0.4% for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds

The proposed goal and the rationale upon which it is based on will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Contracts for thirty days following the first date of this public notice. The Iowa Department of Transportation and the U.S. DOT will accept comments about the goals for 45 days from the first date of this public notification. The following addresses will be provided to the public for inspecting information and mailing comments:

Address of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Contracts (for inspection and comments):
Office of Contracts, Iowa DOT
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
Phone 515-239-1422
Website: www.dot.state.ia.us

Address of the U.S. DOT (for comments):
Federal Highway Administration
105 Sixth Street
Ames, Iowa 50010
Phone 515-233-7300

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The Energy Bus comes to Des Moines

The Des Moines Public Library is proud to present a free workshop featuring Jon Gordon, author of The Energy Bus: 10 Rules to Fuel Your Life, Work and Team with Positive Energy, on Friday, July 27, at 1:00PM in the meeting room of the Central Library. Gordon’s newest book takes readers on an enlightening and inspiring ride that reveals ten secrets for approaching life and work with the kind of positive, forward thinking that leads to true accomplishment - at work and at home.

“It’s Monday morning and George walks out the front door to his car and a flat tire. But this is the least of his problems. His home life is in shambles and his team at work is in disarray. With a big new product launch coming up in two weeks, he has to find a way to get it together or risk losing his marriage and job. Forced to take the bus to work, George meets a unique kind of bus driver and an interesting set of characters (passengers) that over the course of two weeks share the ten rules for the ride of his life... and attempt to help him turn around his work and team and save his job and marriage from an inevitable destruction.”

Drawing upon his experience and work with thousands of leaders, sales professionals, teams, non-profit organizations, schools, and athletes, Gordon infuses this engaging story with keen insights, actionable strategies and a big dose of positive infectious energy. For managers and team leaders or anyone looking to turn negative energy into positive achievement, The Energy Bus provides a powerful road map to overcome common life and work obstacles and bring out the best in yourself and your team.

Gordon is a leading authority on developing positive, engaged people, leaders, businesses, schools, and teams. His proven solutions are being utilized by positive, engaged people, leaders, businesses, schools, and teams. His proven solutions are being utilized by

The State of Iowa is currently accepting applications for a full-time Training Specialist in Des Moines, IA. This position is responsible for delivering training to various government organizations, utilizing human resources knowledge on topics, including but not limited to, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and Investigating Employee Misconduct. Applicants must employ good time management skills while working in a fast-paced work environment focused on organizational development, marketing, customer service, and innovation. The State of Iowa offers a comprehensive benefits package.

Annual Salary Range: $43,056 – $66,788

Roles and Responsibilities:
- Coordinate and deliver training workshops and keynote speaking presentations.
- Analyze, design, plan and develop workshops and supporting materials based on current and anticipated customer needs.
- Conduct needs assessments and utilize results to recommend and provide appropriate training solutions.
- Prepare written proposals outlining potential training solutions.
- Ensure training needs and objectives are being met through evaluations and follow up with the customer.
- Negotiate with external vendors and customers to determine costs and fees to deliver training.
- Facilitate focus groups and meetings identifying common themes and preparing recommendations and action plans.
- Assist with marketing activities providing input on newsletter articles and content posted on the website about available training programs and services.
- Set up and/or arrange for locations for training workshops, including equipment, visual aids, handouts, seating, etc.

Required Qualifications: Qualified applicants will have a four year college degree and at least three years relevant experience including human resources development.

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**NAACP suit claims mortgage lenders discriminated against black customers**

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The NAACP sued a dozen mortgage lenders on Wednesday, claiming the companies discriminated against blacks by steering them to higher interest, subprime loans while giving more favorable loan terms to white borrowers.

The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status, was filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

It demands a court order barring the lenders from discriminating against blacks and compelling them to comply with fair housing and credit laws.

Among the defendants are Ameriquest Mortgage Co., a unit of Orange-based ACC Capital Holdings, one of the nation’s largest subprime lenders.

Chris Orlando, a spokesman for Ameriquest, said he could not comment on specifics of the lawsuit because the company had not yet seen it.

He added, however, that companies lending decisions are based “strictly on objective, statistically proven risk factors.”

Subprime loans are often aimed at borrowers considered by lenders to be a higher risk because of spotty credit histories. Borrowers who obtain such loans can end up paying much more interest.

In the lawsuit, the NAACP contends the lenders have engaged in “institutionalized, systematic racism” and that black homeowners who received subprime loans from the lenders in 2004 were 30 percent more likely to get higher interest rates than white borrowers with the same financial qualifications.

The civil rights group cited studies and public statements attributed to government agencies and other groups that assert blacks have been more likely to receive higher-interest loans than other borrowers.

One of the studies was issued last year by the Durham, N.C.-based Center for Responsible Lending. It found that blacks were 31 percent to 34 percent more likely to get subprime loans than whites with the same income and credit risk profile, the lawsuit states.

A majority of blacks in Boston who earned annual salaries from $92,000 to $152,000 also received subprime loans in 2005, according to a National Community Reinvestment Coalition study cited in the lawsuit.

“These statistical disparities are not mere happenstance, but instead result from a systematic and predatory targeting of African-Americans,” the lawsuits states.

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**Pathways: Continued from page 2**

number of years as a community activist — she facilitated Spiritual Well Being Session.

Once again, feedback from this event has resulted in new relationships formed and current relationships expanded as a result of those attending the workshops. Many of the attendees report they will work on reducing debt and improving their knowledge and abilities. Teens state they gained additional insight about managing money and building positive relationships. Some of the comments from the sessions this year were as follows: “seminar was highly needed, each speaker was perfect for the topic presented; excellent sessions and there should be more; best empowerment workshop ever; need more opportunities to learn types of information presented; keynote speaker was outstanding!”

The Pathways to Prosperity Empowerment Seminar was fortunate to have Life Coach and Speaker, Valerie Burton. Ms. Burton is the author of Listen to Your Life, What’s Really Holding You Back? Rich Minds Rewards, published by divisions of Random House, Inc. Her latest book is Why Not You? 28 Days to Authentic Confidence. A Professional Certified Coach (PCC); she coaches entrepreneurs and professionals seeking a more purposeful path. Her monthly e-newsletter inspires thousands of subscribers. She is the resident life coach for a syndicated radio program, Sharing Life Together. In addition, she is a regular columnist for CBB.com. The Chicago Defender, Heart & Soul and BlackAmericaWeb.com. Valerie was featured in the February 2007 Essence Magazine and she held a book signing after she spoke. For more information on Ms. Burton, go to her website at www.valorieburton.com.

Debra Carr, director of Economic Development for ISED Ventures states the event has been successful each year and believes it is a value added activity to allow women to network and gain new information in a safe forum. She states women from all walks of life and a variety of ages come out of isolation in an effort that nurtures and embraces them where they are and offers supportive services to help them achieve a higher level of being — financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. She adds, “Ventures is extremely grateful for the generous support of sponsors and for valued partnerships with agencies in the community. Without these collaborations, she adds, this activity this would not be possible!” 

Women have improved their knowledge, skills, and abilities, reported increased confidence and self-esteem, reduce their debt and gained greater financial management skills, learned how to take better care of themselves and have become connected with a supportive environment of other women — thus moving some from isolation to building a network of support and moving towards financial freedom and independence.”

Claudia Hawkins serves as program manager for Financial Education Programs for ISED Ventures and has also worked on the planning of this event. She has provided counseling and technical assistance to help women reduce debt and increase their financial assets. Debra and Claudia as well as other ISED Ventures staff worked as a team along with Adrienne Evans Windley — Young Women’s Resource Center to plan this event.

ISED Ventures creates opportunities for low and moderate income Iowans to increase income and achieve financial stability. The organization’s vision is vibrant Iowa communities where all families and individuals have the opportunity to achieve financial stability and success! Debra Carr adds, “This seminar is one strategy for which the organization works towards fulfilling its mission and vision.”

For more information on financial education programs and services, call ISED Ventures at (515) 283-0940.
Hairyists and barbers will have the opportunity to present their knowl-edge, talent and skill, at Project Hairway on the Runway to be held this Sunday, July 29th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This event will feature approximately 15 of the most creative and talented hairists and barbers from central and northeastern Iowa. The event includes a “Fantasy Hair Competition” in which the winner will walk away with a prize and bragging rights for their unique styles! Wes Hall (picture), Des Moines native; acclaimed author, motivational speaker and radio personality in Omaha, Nebraska (formally of Des Moines) will host this festive event.

D.J. Hollywood, an accomplished disc jockey will serve as the “minister of music” for the evening. Ventra Boykin, Miss Black Iowa 2007 will make a celebrity appearance and perform her award winning talent at this affair. Ventra placed as one of the top 16 semifinalists in the Miss Black USA Pageant, held in the Gambia, West Af-rica. In addition, “a special guest” will grace the Runway at this illustrious event. This event is the brainchild of Sheila R. Woods, Owner/Operator of ShaOah’s Beauty Salon, 4910 Urbandale Avenue – Des Moines, IA (515) 255-6130. Sheila R. Woods has always dreamed of promoting and expanding her business while embracing and helping other small business owners to do the same. She believes this event is a way to showcase the talent and artistic ability of Iowa barbers and hairstylists while also giving back to the community. Sheila is a mother of (2) and a native of Des Moines in 1994; seeking an opportunity to prosper and grow. While living in Des Moines, Sheila states she has grown in a number of ways. Sheila states, “I have been blessed to start and grow a business in Des Moines thanks to the generosity of all of my customers.” She adds, “Thanks to all of their support, I am able to expand my business by in-creasing my customer base and visibility.” Sheila adds that this event would not be possible without the support of a number of people who have given of their time and talent. In addition, Sheila states the financial commitment to pro-duce a community affair does not hap-pen without a great deal of resources. Sheila is interested in using the venue as an opportunity to grow and expand her business and is currently saving money in the Iowans Save! Program, a matched savings program that helps people to save money for their first home, to start, expand or strengthen a small business or to pursue post secondary education. Sheila initially saved and purchased a home for herself and her (2) children and now she is using the Iowans Save! program to save funds to help strengthen her business. In addition, Sheila wants to tell others about ISED Ventures and encourage them to gain information to build assets. Sheila is one success story of ISED Ventures, an organization that helps create opportunities for low and moderate income Iowans to increase income and achieve financial stability.

This event will prove engaging and entertaining for the entire family. Bring your family, friends and neighbors for an exciting evening which will prove memorable and a great way to spend a Sunday evening.

Project Hairway on the Runway will feature a full slate of salons and barbers from Des Moines and surrounding ar-eas in addition to vendors that focus on beauty products, jewelry and community resources that help to aid entrepre-neurs to become successful. Many lo-cal models will also grace the stage showcasing the award winning hair styles. There will also be talent demonstrations in between the various skits conducted by each stylist.

The event is $20.00 in advance and $25.00 at the door. Some of the proceeds will be donated to ISED Ventures to help other individuals achieve fi-nancial security. For ticket information, please contact ShaOah’s Beauty Salon at (515) 255-6130 or ISED Ventures (515) 283-0940.

**D.C. Mayor to endorse Obama for president**

WASHINGTON (AP) – District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty was expected to endorse Democrat Barack Obama’s presidential bid Tuesday.

Fenty was to appear with the Illinois senator at an afternoon news conference at a recreation center in southwest Washington. Fenty spokeswoman Carrie Brooks confirmed. Obama’s campaign said the news conference was about an endorsement.

Fenty is a fellow Democrat leading a heavily Democratic city. But he is also a big admirer of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and has modeled many of his initiatives after Bloomberg’s since taking office in January. Bloomberg has denied any plans to run, but recently switched from Republican to unaffiliated, clearing the way for a possible independent bid.

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RALIEGH, N.C. (AP) - Despite an influx of money and students, North Carolina’s historically black public universities still face weak graduation rates and several financial problems.

State lawmakers and voters have allocated nearly half a billion dollars since 2000 to build new buildings at the five schools and to beef up recruiting and marketing operations. The efforts helped boost the number of students at the universities by about 12,000, or 52 percent, since the beginning of the decade.

Yet the universities - Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, North Carolina A&T State, North Carolina Central and Winston-Salem State - have graduation rates lagging behind the overall University of North Carolina system. Fewer than half of the students at the historically black schools make it to graduation within six years, compared to a UNC system rate of 59 percent.

Four of the schools are getting new leadership within a month, and two of them face financial scrutiny.

Stanley Battle became the new chancellor at North Carolina A&T after the interim chancellor uncovered financial abuse and administrative chaos. At Fayetteville State, chancellor T.J. Bryan abruptly announced her resignation last week amid a financial audit.

UNC President Erskine Bowles (pictured) vowed that problems unearthed at North Carolina A&T and Fayetteville State will be corrected, and he called on the new chancellors to lead the way.

“I want leaders who are capable to put in a strong infrastructure and to manage these organizations to allow them to grow and grow successfully,” Bowles said.

New UNC system goals to improve graduation rates may have a greater effect on the historically black universities, where half to two-thirds of undergraduates are eligible for federal financial aid for low-income students. The goals may force schools to raise the bar for student admission.

“You’re going to have growing pains,” said Donald Reaves, the incoming chancellor at Winston-Salem State. “The way I think about this is, you have to give the institution time to catch up to the growth … it all isn’t going to happen overnight.”
Rare letter for sale: Pardon of black Underground RR hero

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - A letter that documents President Franklin Pierce’s pardon of a black man who harbored slaves went up for sale Monday.

The 1854 presidential pardon, which is valued at $75,000, grants clemency to Noah C. Hanson, who was convicted three years earlier for stowing two slaves in a hiding place under the kitchen floor of his house.

The document is currently the only known presidential pardon of a black man convicted of harboring slaves, according to Raab Collection, a dealer based in suburban Philadelphia.

“This rare manuscript highlights the important role that African American people in the North played in the Underground Railroad, and the risks they took to free slaves,” said Steven Raab, founder of The Raab Collection, owner and seller of the document.

Stanley Harrold, a professor of history at South Carolina State University who has written a book about abolitionists in the nation’s capital that includes the Hanson case, said he knew of no other pardon of its kind.

“There was an earlier pardon by President Fillmore of two white men imprisoned in D.C. for helping slaves escape, but as far as I know the Noah Hanson one is the only presidential pardon for a black man who did something similar,” he said.
Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate, but that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some; it is in everyone.

And, as we let our own light shine, we consciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

partners in incarceration rates, community drug epidemics, rising domestic violence rates, voting access reform, even tax credits to address blight and urban development were passed over to address that all important issue - the devastation it would cause and the injustice it would be to Black Iowans to have to pick up free rabbit cars from Mediacom to keep Fox 17 KDSM.

On July 18th the Des Moines Register ran an article titled Black-White prisoner ratio highest in US: How can Iowa change this? The fact that the article ran is not the major problem, what causes so much concern is the response from readers to the Register’s blog. State Representative Wayne Ford and State Representative Ako Abdul Samad where asked about the disproportionate ratio of blacks incarcerated in Iowa. Both gave sound answers with the beginnings of plans to help curve the flow of blacks into the prison systems of Iowa.

The concern I have is the fact that so many people had a comment on race and how it does or does not play a role in the out of whack ratios.

As I read all of the post I felt compelled to write about the lack of visibility of our local NAACP when it comes to issues such as this that can cause such venom in the form of racist comments to come out in large volumes. Leadership in the local NAACP has to more active in the grassroots issues that effect the African American community.

The local NAACP has a massive six figure financial war chest. Money that has been amassed year after year of Freedom Fund Banquets.

As Governor Tom Vilsack prepared to leave office numerous newspapers wrote about the need for the Black and Latino communities to step up and demand their fair share of the benefits. Young, enthusiastic, leaders were expected to help curve the flow of blacks into the prison systems of Iowa.

The fact that this article can cause the White community to respond with such a deep rooted cynicism reflects the failure of local African American leadership to educate the greater community on the successes and concerns of the African American community.

The NAACP has promised to print its news whenever we receive it. The youth branch has taken advantage of this and its news has appeared in our pages time after time after time. Thank you Gretchen Woods. Where has our local branch been, however. Has it even conducted a meaningful membership drive?

The Unity Neighborhood NAACP led by Rev. Keith Ratliff does not have a financial infrastructure because state conferences do not have money, local branches do. So while the state branch has had the chance in addressing issues like the racist hiring practices of the Iowa Department of Workforce Development - practices that have cost the taxpayers a small fortune in settled legal claims - the cash flushed local branch has been invisible in our community.

Even if they have not used their resources to fight racism have they spent money to recruit and expand membership? Have you been asked to join the local NAACP lately?

We must call our Black leadership to task in order to make sure that they represent our interests.

Project Destiny sought more than $100 million dollars in taxes from the local Black and Latino communities. We had no voice in the construction of Project Destiny and were promised very few benefits.

When the project Destiny people come back to our community and announce they are going to treat the Black community just like the Whites school district live in poverty, so they can save millions in taxes, have fun with our money, give jobs to other people with our money, and build cultural attractions we aren’t welcomed to, with our money, what will our leadership do? Will our leadership go along to get along as they did this summer with the pro-Destiny crowd? Or will they fight to have us meaningfully included in the process that has become an industry in Central Iowa.

Gone is the day that we wait on someone to “fix us.” We have the talent and the drive to get it done, we just can’t let other people tell us we shouldn’t or can’t. Now is the time to develop a new Black leadership that will step forward and lead.

There are dollars that have been sitting in some agency coffers for years that could make big differences in our community. Agencies like the Iowa Finance Authority, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, the Department of Community Development Block Grant dollars, the Iowa Values Fund, and the Iowa Department of Economic Development must be challenged to see us as Iowans, as contributors and not just sources to generate more money for them to be spent on others.

This is just the latest battle of many battles we have been fighting with these agencies in demanding fair access to capital. Learning how to take advantage of tax credits to build multi-unit housing is not only to go to the wealthy politicians and out of state developers but our community business leaders as well.

We can start right now on a journey to erase hundreds of years of the Willy Lynch effect on black folk by giving up our old habits, letting go of our fear of ourselves and success. By moving closer to different sets of communities we wet out the door of compromise with each other, and developing action plans that include the community, and not just a few individuals we can build a success model. We can no longer be side tracked by small issues that hide the bigger more important issues. The side tracking is over.

In talking about leadership we must talk about our churches and the need to get back to being connected to the people in the community. If you’ve noticed, there has been an increase in the number of new churches with younger and more community connected pastors that have ever Before. This is part of the new leadership we need to cultivate.

The development of a Des Moines Black Chamber of Commerce is another key step that must be taken so the things that affect us most are not pushed aside by the Greater Des Moines Partnership. If we are irrelevant to them we definitely don’t have to be remain irrele-

vent to ourselves.

Does our agenda get the attention it deserves?

Our agencies fail the attention it deserves.

Our attention will get the attention it deserves!

Ending is always hard for me but I must close. We need to start this movement toward change. It doesn’t matter who is in front if we follow the simple principle of accountability. The brave individual that steps up to lead will secure the support of the people and for that reason success can happen when we participate freely for the success of us all.

A new renaissance is coming to Iowa’s African American community. Do you want to be a part of it? Do you want to be in the vanguard of this new and exciting movement? Let us know.

Moving toward change...
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.

Cornerstone Family Church
3114 SW 61st Street
Des Moines, IA 50321
Phone: 515-243-2852

Our Purpose
Helping ALL people find and live their lives for Christ, bridging ethnic, cultural and denominational lines.

Sundays
Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Youth Elevate 9:30 a.m.
Real Life – Ministry for Singles 18-29
Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Transportation to Sunday Morning Worship services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays
Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
SpiritLife 7:00 p.m.
One Youth 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays
Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Merge – Ministry for Singles over 30
2nd Saturday of each month 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Radio Ministry
Fridays 11:30 a.m. & Sundays 7:30 a.m. on Praise 940 AM

Kids for Christ summer camp - July 16-20
For kids 2nd - 6th grades. Registration forms are available in the Dome, the Information Center and the CFC website. Cost of camp is $225. Fundraiser available. Counselors needed, it’s free. See Pastor Byron for more information.

IYC - July 20-24th
Iowa Youth Connection Summer Camp for students who have completed 7th thru 12th grade. Please see www.generationhero.com for more information and a registration sheet.

Save the Dates!
Membership Class – July 14th
Water Baptism – August 12th

Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org
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

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.
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service
Verna Smith: 515-243-8470
“We are members of the body of Christ, Loving and living, giving and growing, teaching and learning, remaining faithful while on earth and looking forward to our Savior’s second coming”

Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:15 a.m.
Mondays - Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays - Family Night Ministry for all ages
Wednesdays - Prayer Meeting at 6:15pm
Wednesdays - Bible Study at 7:00pm
Saturdays - Knitting Class at 12:00 p.m.
Sundays - 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
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service
Bro. White: 515-244-1741
Mission: Our purpose is to bring Christians and non-Christians together in a Christian community in order to become Disciples for Christ.
Mission Statement: To continue spreading the Gospel as we nourish in a Christian community in order to become Disciples for Christ.
We make disciples.
Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas
Phone: 515-288-4419.

Laurel Mason Baptist Church
Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr., Pastor
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Phone: 515-262-1931

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.

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Rev. Derek E. Bastian, Pastor
St. Paul A.M.E. Church
1201 Day Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
Ministry Days & Times
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Sunday school
Church School for seniors
Children’s Church
Good Samaritan Youth Outreach
Nursery Available
Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
Children’s Church
Nursery Available
Sundays 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 & Tae-Bo
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Good Samaritan Youth Outreach
Nursery Available
Wednesday
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
Meeting - 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m. Traditional Service
For information please call 515-288-4419.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr., Pastor
1552 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-282-3425
Pastor: Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 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 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.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
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 a.m., Praise 940 AM
Email Address: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com

Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com
As 50th mark approaches, LR Central desegregation observed

LITTLE ROCK (AP) - In addition to former President Bill Clinton, events commemorating the desegregation of Central High School 50 years ago will feature such luminaries as former Atlanta Mayor and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young and former U.S. Rep. Harold Ford Jr. of Tennessee.

Annie Abrams hopes the anniversary observance can create quite a contrast between 2007 and 1957.

“This will not be a crisis,” said Abrams, a retired teacher who was the first black president of Central’s PTA. “This will be our crown of all our efforts.”

Anniversary organizers held a news conference outside Central on Monday to promote events related to September’s observance of the school’s integration. Over 30 commemorative activities have been scheduled, according to Mayor Mark Stodola.

The highlight will be a ceremony on the school’s front lawn Sept. 25 - 50 years to the day after nine black students were escorted into the school by members of the 101st Airborne in a showdown between Gov. Orval Faubus and President Eisenhower.

The school’s integration was the first test of the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark decision in 1954 that declared segregated schools unconstitutional.

“Little Rock, Arkansas - particularly Central High School - will be the place to be,” said Virgil Miller, co-chairman of the anniversary’s organizing committee.

Organizers have scheduled several events in the days before the anniversary, including a town hall meeting on race and education Sept. 20, judicial forums Sept. 20-21 and an ecumenical service Sept. 23.

Various exhibits, plays and speeches are spread out over several weeks. Young, who once worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr., will be featured as part of the Bless the Mic Lecture Series on Sept. 18. Ford will speak at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service on Sept. 24.

Anniversary-related events continue into October. Bethel A.M.E. Church and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral are sponsoring a forum on race relations and the faith community set for Oct. 4.

Abrams is working on a project involving a time capsule to be closed this year and not opened until 2057. Anniversary-related events continue into October.

Bethel A.M.E. Church and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral are sponsoring a forum on race relations and the faith community set for Oct. 4.

Anniversary-related events continue into October.

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.