Patty Link with her son Graham, was elected to the board, too.

is informed he defeated Des Moines School Board President and three term incumbent Marc Ward.

Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections Jamie Fitzgerald with Jon Narcisse on election night after Narcisse

Fear God, Tell the Truth & Make Money • The Oldest Black Publication West of the Mississippi • Vol. 117 No. 9 • September 17, 2007

Redefine your perception

By Representative Ako Abdul-Samad

It is time to change are perception of life. T.D. Jakes said “If you don’t like the way your life is going, redesign it: Redeem the years you lost. Restore your vision, revive your passion for living, and reclaim what was dormant inside of you. I cannot give you the dream but I can give you the tools to reach the dreams you have inside.”

As citizens our perception of the political arena is that our vote does not count. We believe that our vote in a school board, city council, board of supervisor, or presidential elections will not have an effect on our life. This is contrary to the truth.

Research has shown that the State of Iowa is number one in the nation for disproportionate numbers of African Americans in prison. Our school districts are under attack from the No Child Left Behind law and young people are leaving the state because we are not offering the growth and tools to keep them here. Our perception of voting must be redefined.

To change these conditions we must commit to getting involved in the voting process. Not only do your votes count but they can change the way you live, revive your community, provide economic growth, and give your children an opportunity to have dreams and make those dreams a reality.

Your vote gives you and your children a voice to choose the next President of the United States. Your vote will increase your value so much that the presidential candidates will go to great lengths to address your issues.

You can restore your vision and revive your passion by making sure that political candidates address your concerns. You can redeem the years you lost by making sure your involvement in your child’s life, your neighborhood, your schools, are not determined by someone else. By exercising your right to vote it gives you the power to determine what happens to the things that are close and dear to you and helps reclaim what was dormant inside of you.

It’s time for you to live life and not let life dictate to you, the power is in your hands. As Malcolm X said “The ballot or the bullet” our children must stop dying just because and start living for a cause. We can make this a reality.

Norman Cousins stated “Death isn’t the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside of us while we live.”

Each time we miss the earned opportunity to vote we sentence our children to an educational, economical, and social death. What is your legacy, life or death?

Due to the extraordinary events of this week Iowa Bystander will be eight pages. We will return to our normal publication cycle next issue.
Alphas working together?

When you put the alpha personalities of any species together, bulls, lions, long horn sheep, gorillas, roosters, and of course man, you will have a power struggle that could become a fight to the death. But the alpha phenomenon can be worked into a productive relationship.

In the coming months you, the black community, will be invited to a historical event. An event that will be like no other held for our community and the guest speaker will be you the black community.

This historic event is being put together by three alpha men, Rep. Wayne Ford, Rep. Ako Abdul Samad and Iowa Bystander publisher Jerald C. Brantley. All differences have been ironed out and put down. The opportunity for change is now and this historical event will act as the catalyst for the change in our community the must and will happen.

The ground rules for this event are simple - bring your concerns, your wishes, dislikes, wants, and needs for the community. Nothing is off limits, including how we have been doing our jobs in your eyes. The most important ground rule is we will come away with a positive plan of action for our community, unified, whole and intact.

With the number of black elected officials climbing to new heights, the time to change is now, and we must start with building trust within our community. This unprecedented event will provide us with the launching pad that will take us to great heights.

“If you don’t know your history you are destined to repeat it” and we have history to study. But we won’t get paralyzed in the studying of that history because we are in change mode.

Keep looking in the Iowa Bystander and listening to KJMC radio for more details of when, where, and what time. Get there early - we expect a full turnout.

Moving Toward Change JB...
What’s Going On?

As a long time (1983) entrepreneur in Iowa from a family of longer time (1916) entrepreneurs and professionals, I find the current position of black business in this state a disgrace. Almost all of our employment intensive black businesses are gone and replaced with IT firms and consultants who rarely hire anyone and are paraded before our community as symbols of “success.” Iowa’s black businesses’ existence, survival and growth is at an all-time low and let’s discuss why:

When it comes to the plight of Iowa’s black business community, two factors have created the pathetic conditions of today:

1. Lack of federal government accountability and major corporate indifference and hypocrisy.
2. Black business’ inability to cement continuing relationships with white corporate and small business clients for a variety of socio-economic reasons.

As I mentioned last week, the federal government implemented federal acquisition regulations (FAR) and programs like the Section 8(a) sole source and small disadvantaged business (SDB) program to push minority business enterprises (MBE) into proximity all-white corporate supplier and service bases. Significant progress was made during the 1970s through 1990s until a plethora of anti-affirmative action lawsuits and legislation cut the legs out from under the initiatives.

Our lack of political and economic clout in Iowa has allowed major corporations to hypocritically tout “diversity” without patronizing our businesses or providing a legitimate mechanism to do so. The few corporations that do have supplier diversity programs are aimed more at public relations than profit.

In Iowa, the only “serious” supplier diversity initiative ever came from an unlikely participant. Black CEO Lloyd Ward could not buy a home in Newton (racial county) and was accorded by rednecks at the local gas station, but he made huge progress during his brief time (1998-2000) at Maytag Corporation. I had the privilege of consulting Ward’s MBE supplier diversity program with an annual ten percent (10%) goal of $180 million. Although many of Ward’s buyers resisted his directions, we sought MBWE supply and service business nation-wide and were dismayed to find how few were eligible for prequalification which brings up my second point.

Any good business person knows that you don’t make money on new business but off repeat business instead. Long-term relationships where your clients trust your ability, pricing and results are what makes most entrepreneurs wealthy. When your customers call you and say “this is what we want and how much will it cost” instead of sending you a competitive bid, you have arrived.

Unfortunately, I have walked into many new (white) client offices over the years and received the “shocked and appalled” reaction when they see you are black. Iowa remains very racially polarized and the popularity of the suburbs, aka “White Nation,” magnifies the separation even more. Most white Iowans don’t know or have regular contact with anyone black and the result is extreme stereotyping and discomfort when black people are around. The late Rev. Martin Luther King once said that “eleven o’clock Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America” and he could apply that observation even more broadly in Iowa.

Transferring polarization over into the business world slams the door on long term relationship building and thus profit and growth because it destroys the entire concept of equal opportunity. This alienation makes it easy to avoid and disqualify MBE firms who will ultimately fail from lack of revenue thus creating more unemployment (15%+) and despair in our community.

Per capita, there are more Asian and Mexican owned businesses in Des Moines than black as their willingness to do business with each other far surpasses ours. Many of us (blacks) have a real problem with trusting or supporting each other and we all talk about it but nothing changes. Maybe the racial segregation of the old Center Street wasn’t all bad?

Big brother (federal government) is turning his back on the black business community by allowing major corporations (in many cases) to ignore us as suppliers and service companies thus undermining our very existence. The National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) is a great mechanism to see examples of MBE/major corporate success other places and it is worth attending their annual convention for the “psychological” support if for no other reason. I am heading to Miami next month… see you there!

There is hope for black entrepreneurs here in Iowa, but the door of opportunity remains cracked and has not opened any farther in recent years and there is plenty of blame and guilt to go around.

John Lay Thompson, Publisher of the Iowa Bystander 11/13/1896
There are three main areas I’m going to focus on this year:
• Improving parental involvement in education
• Pushing for greater fiscal accountability and transparency in the governance of our district
• Accurately documenting, reporting and improving student achievement

At this point let me affirm something. I am not there to either divide or conform to the board’s politics. I’m there to represent the students, parents, teachers and taxpayers of this district. This is not going to be about board politics but about our kids. It is shameful that more time has been spent by this board on land use strategies, like what to do with Rice field, than key areas of academic accountability like the alignment of enrollment dates or fixing the devastating impact of our failed social promotion policy.

To most effectively serve this district I need two things from the people that supported me. The first is for you to show up at the meetings. This board has proven it is a political animal. They will respect citizen participation. They will respect seeing the school board meeting packed even when there are no controversies on the agenda.

The second thing I need are people that understand the issues to work with me. I am not going there as an education expert but an education activist. There is a difference. Your job is to help me know like what to do with Rice field, than key areas of academic accountability like the alignment of enrollment dates or fixing the devastating impact of our failed social promotion policy.

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The second thing I need are people that understand the issues to work with me. I am not going there as an education expert but an education activist. There is a difference. Your job is to help me know what I am talking about (Mary Ann Spicer). My job is to tell truth to power without fear and with hesitation.

At the core of everything else a school board members job is to be a bridge builder. Steve Deace and Jon Narcisse couldn’t sit in the same room on the same 50,000 watt station and both say Jon Narcisse is the man we need on the Des Moines School Board. Together we are stronger than divided. Despite the rhetoric about me being a divider if I weren’t a bridge builder Steve Deace and Jon Niederbach couldn’t sit in the same room on the same 50,000 watt station and both say Jon Narcisse is the man we need on the Des Moines School Board.

I can work with anybody for our kids. I will never support bad public policies like buying the Colonial Bakery Building, using our tax dollars to pad the pockets of vested interests, or strategies to indoctrinate our students. I will always seek collaboration on issues like improving academic achievement and parental participation.

There is strength in unity. Let’s make this happen.

Jon Narcisse

P.S. To all those that supported me thank you very much. We did it! To all those that have opposed this candidacy or supported other candidates I invite you to join this movement to reclaim our schools for what it is one of my great hopes is that over the next three years, as trust in this district is restored, that we will raise voter turnout for school board elections in this community to no less than 15% and closer to 20%. That may seem like an ambitious goal but if we make voting in our school board elections a community wide priority we can get there.

Project Destiny would have generated $750 million to $1 billion over ten years for three counties. The Des Moines Independent Community School District alone will spend from all sources, public and private between $4 billion to $5 billion over that same period. Outside the legislature the Des Moines School Board is responsible for spending more tax dollars than any other policy making body. That warrants more than six percent turnout.

Be a part of this movement. If you are interested in making a difference, in the lives of our students call me at 515-280-8092 or 515-471-5092. I will stand in the gap and fight for every child of this district as I will my own. But I’m one man and only together can we get this done.

P.S. To all those that supported me thank you very much. We did it! To all those that have opposed this candidacy or supported other candidates I invite you to join this movement to reclaim our schools for what it is one of my great hopes is that over the next three years, as trust in this district is restored, that we will raise voter turnout for school board elections in this community to no less than 15% and closer to 20%. That may seem like an ambitious goal but if we make voting in our school board elections a community wide priority we can get there.

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Weekly Meditation

“Stop Now and Bless His Name”

Psalm 103
Verse of Concentration

“I bless the Holy Name of God with all my heart. Yes, I will bless the Lord and not forget the glorious things He does for me.”

Psalm 103:1-2 NIV

David’s praise focused on God’s glorious acts. It is so easy for us to get side tracked and complain about life, but David’s list in Psalm 103 gives us plenty for which to praise God: His love, forgiveness, salvation, kindness, mercy, justice, patience, tenderness; all of this we receive, without deserving any of them. No matter how difficult our life’s journey, we can always count our blessings: past, present and future. When in doubt, remember David’s list in Psalm 103. Whatever you may be doing right now as you’re reading your weekly Bystander, stop, give God the Glory and recite this prayer:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me. I will not forget your benefits towards me. You have forgiven all of my sins and you have healed all my diseases. You have redeemed my life from destruction, and you have grounded me with loving kindness and tender mercies. You have satisfied my mouth with good things and you have renewed me like an eagle (Psalm 103:1-5). Because you, O Lord, have done so much for me, I will sing praises to you with understanding (Psalm 47:7) and I will exalt your Name at all times (Psalm 34:1). I will brag on you and cause others to magnify your Name with me (Psalm 34:1-2). I have tasted and seen that you are good and that you are a rewarder of them that diligently seek you (Psalm 34:8, Hebrews 11:6). Lord, for the rest of my life, I will give you the fruit of my lips, and the melodies of my heart, always giving you thanks (Hebrews 13:15; Ephesians 5:19). Lord I adore you and I sing of your love forever. I will never get tired of giving you praise, glory and adoration for all that you’ve done. There is none like you in all the earth and I delight in the privilege of loving you, and you loving me. I clap my hands and applaud you as I shout unto you with the voice of triumph (Psalm 47:1-2)! God, you reign and I honor your awesomeness in my praise, worship and in my song unto you. You deserve the honor and the glory and I lift my hands and bless your Holy Name (Psalm 47:8)! AMEN!

Elpis Fellowship
Pastor Tammy L. Harris

Hispanics and African Americans are more vulnerable to poor health because they have more families without health insurance than white Americans.

In the next issue of Iowa Bystander State Senator Jack Hatch outlines his bold and visionary plan to address this concern.

You won’t want to miss this.

“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.

THE DIFFERENCE IS INSIDE US

At Iowa Health – Des Moines, we believe “what’s inside us” is what makes us different.

Our workforce is the strength behind our proud tradition of providing quality health care. And we know that our success is due to our outstanding workforce of dedicated employees who have a common mission to improve the health of our communities through healing, caring and teaching.

No matter what your area of interest,

you’ll find plenty of opportunities at our hospitals and more than 35 primary care physician clinics throughout central Iowa. And as one of Des Moines’ largest employers, we offer a flexible benefit package and competitive salary.

If you’re interested in joining our team, visit our Web site at www.iowahospital.org.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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515-287-6428
FAX 515-287-0430

Free Child Health Clinic

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

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

For further information phone 243-4073
Cornerstone Family Church
3114 SW 61st Street
Des Moines, IA 50321
Phone: 515-243-2852

Business Office
Monday – Friday, 8:30-4:40
Church Office 515-243-2852 ext 75

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
Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org

Ambassadors of Praise - Wednesday, September 19th
Join the Ambassadors of Praise in a night of worship! Be encouraged, provoked, uplifted and inspired as the minister the Word through songs and hymns of old and new.

Small Group Rally Days - September 19, 22 & 23
There is a place for you! Visit the booths and sign up to be part of this fantastic ministry!

Calling All Dancers!
If you are 13 years of age or older and interested in participating in the Arts Ministry of Dance, then come Thursday, September 27th at 6:00 p.m. for an informative meeting. Please sign up at the Information Center to attend.
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
Vinna 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:
Sunday - 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.
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 Bee 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
others with God’s truth and to exemplify God’s truth at work in their
lives.

Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesdays - Prayer Service & Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.
Tape Ministry: Audio Tapes of Services cost $4

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr., Pastor
1552 Maple Street
Des Moines, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1931
Transportation to Sunday School and Morning Worship Service is available.

Church Schedule:
Sundays - Worship at 10:45 a.m.
Sundays - Christian Education at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesdays - Prayer Meeting & Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Health Clinic - 2nd Thursday of Every Month

Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church
Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr., Pastor
1639 Garfield Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50316
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 258
Des Moines, IA 50301
Phone: 515-262-3802
Email: sdaphiladelphia@msn.com

Church Schedule:
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.
“Showers of Blessing” Fellowship & Prayer Service 15:00 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, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-4073

Ministry Days & Times
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
Sunday school
Sabbath School
Church School
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.

...how are they to hear
without a preacher? Romans 10:14

Burns United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: Church 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.corinthiannbaptistsdm.org

New Friendship Church of God In Christ
Address: 1317 Forest Avenue • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-243-7097
Pastor: Rev. R.L. Daye
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 619 S.E. 15th Street • DSM, IA 50314
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.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1552 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1931
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 at 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 School: 9:00 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

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
Address: 1201 Day Street • DSM, IA 50301
Phone: 515-288-4419
Pastor: Rev. R.L. Daye
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 12:00 p.m.

Send your church news to: iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com
Celebrating the Unseen, Unheard, Unsung…Hidden Heroes

In 1996, a community youth group “Youth Working for Positive Change” (YWPC), an affiliate of Des Moines Citizens from Community Improvement (CCI), decided that young people were often recognized for their wrong doings or what they were not doing, and not often enough for their accomplishments. When positive recognition was given, it was always to the valedictorians or athletes, but never to the youth who have overcome adversity. Therefore YWPC and CCI created a venue for these individuals to be recognized and celebrated through “The Hidden Heroes Banquet”. From 1996 to 2005, 225 youth were recognized and we want to see this work continue.

Because of the work that Elpis Ministries does in the community, CCI felt it would be beneficial to gift this banquet over to the ministry and watch it prosper. Elpis was honored, and this Saturday, September 22nd, youth from the community will be getting recognition for their accomplishments that normally go “unseen, unheard and unsung”.

The honorees for this year’s recognition will be Ashton Ingle, Edward Hull, Kayla Cropp, Kyrie Severson, Joe Carpenter, Tamera Peake, Shae’Loren Deering, Kevene Dunigan, Mekia Austin, Dominique Stone and Kevin Slaughter. Along with our youth, we will be honoring two senior residents of our community who continue to “give back”, Jackie Collier and Lee Odis Harper, our first recipients of “The Epitome of Humility’’ Award.

If you want to share in the celebrate these individuals, this event will be Saturday, September 22nd at the Downtown Holiday Inn-Top of The Tower, 1050 6th Avenue, 6:30pm. If you know of someone who deserves recognition for overcoming obstacles or adversities, please contact Shundrea Trotty at 237-8000 by Tuesday, September 18th. Tickets may also be reserved by contacting the office 237-8000.

Help us celebrate the unseen, unheard and unsung heroes within our community!