Pastors Supporting Urban Scouting

The Eastside Ministerial Urban Scouting Initiative (EMUSI) has been established as a working model to increase the participation of urban youth in scouting activities. EMUSI was established through the efforts of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance and the Mid-Iowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The churches that form EMUSI are Union Baptist Missionary Church (Pastor H. I. Thomas), Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor Keith A. Ratliff, Sr.), King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor Irvin Lewis, Sr.), and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Pastor Steve Perkins).

“These churches, and church leaders, are taking a giant step forward to address the rising concern for the future of urban youth”, said Gary Lawson, General Chairperson of the Iowa June-teenth Observance and architect of the Urban Scouting Project. “The church has traditionally participated in a historically-based partnership with scouting organizations to provide youth development activities that are enriched with moral values and instill appreciation for maintaining healthy community living”, said Lawson. EMUSI operations will be centered at King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church, which is located at 619 SE 15th Street in Des Moines (50317). “We are happy to serve as the host site for the Eastside Ministerial Urban Scouting Initiative”, said Pastor Irvin Lewis, Sr. “Our initial efforts will be to organize Cub Scout Packs among youth in the 1st through 5th grades.” In addition to establishing its headquarters, EMUSI has begun the process of selecting an Organizational Representative, who will work with Reggie Hawkins, Scout Executive for the Two Rivers District of the Mid-Iowa Council, where the Urban Scouting Project is based. The next step will be to appoint a Cub Scout Committee, which is comprised of adults from all of the EMUSI churches, who will oversee the activities of the Cub Scouts and recruit adult volunteers (male and female) to serve as leaders of the Cub Scout Packs.

The Iowa Juneteenth Observance is holding its annual Community Banquet at 7:00 pm on June 19th at Cornerstone Family Church, located at 3114 SW 61st Street in Des Moines (50321) and all proceeds from the Community Banquet will go to support the Urban Scouting Project and efforts like EMUSI.

Banquet tickets must be purchased by June 16. For more ticket information call Gary at 515-274-1433, Reike at 515-440-1235 or visit our website: www.iowajuneteenth.org.

Harkin Announces Recovery Act Grants To Fight Violence Against Women

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) announced that $78,125 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Economic Recovery package, has been released to the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVWI), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Harkin is a senior member of the Appropriations panel that funds DOJ initiatives.

“Violence against women remains a major problem, but with these dollars we can help women get the support they need to overcome these terrible acts,” Harkin said. “I am pleased Iowa will receive these important funds for victims of sexual assault.”

Specifically, these funds will be used to provide support to battered women’s shelters and other domestic violence victim service providers.

AABB Celebrates 2008

Accomplishments, Sets 2009

Agenda At Annual Reception

The African-American Business Association (AABA), an affiliate of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, will host its third annual reception on Thursday, June 18 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center, 75 E. Army Post Road. Governor Chet Culver, along with Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad, and Terry Vorbrich of the city of Des Moines, will be the featured speakers.

AABA advocates for and promotes the development of African-American owned businesses. AABA is the only organization of its kind in Iowa, catering to the business needs and advocacy of African American owned businesses and professionals financial assistance to women and minority owned businesses. After redefining its mission and vision AABA’s focus going forward is to expand the organization and its influence throughout the state.

The cost to attend the AABA Annual Reception is $25 per person. Participants should RSVP by June 15 by contacting Kathy Garton at 515-286-4950 or kgarton@desmoinesmetro.com. Media inquiries may be directed to Lu Spaine 515-277-4639 or Isaiah McGee 515-249-3574 info@aabaofdesmoines.com.

Vice President Joe Biden Honors Late Representative Tubbs Jones

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) - America is at one of those inflection points in history,” where the decisions being made will influence generations to come, Vice President Joe Biden told members of the black caucus and their spouses Saturday.

Biden said the problems facing America are immediate, and that the administration can’t “pick and choose which issues to tackle.”

“We don’t do anything in Pakistan, it careens off a cliff. We don’t do anything in Iraq, we don’t do anything with Iran... We don’t do anything in energy, it’s not like things aren’t going to get worse. We don’t do anything on the environment, it doesn’t mean it doesn’t get worse,” he said.

“The downside’s big, man,” he said. “We miss, we miss a generational opportunity.”

Biden talked about progress that’s been made - especially in race relations - during a fundraiser for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses at Kingsmill Resort & Spa.

He spoke of watching Wilmington, Del., go up in flames after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and how the National Guard protected parts of the city for months, including a train station in a black neighborhood. Then he talked about leaving that same train station on his way to be sworn in as vice president, how King Jr. was assassinated and how the National Guard protected parts of the city again.

“Don’t tell me there is no progress,” he said the raucous cheers. “Don’t tell me there is anything beyond our capabilities.”

Biden also paid tribute to the late Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Ohio, who died in August of a brain hemorrhage.

He described Tubbs Jones as “arguably the most important woman in the African American community.” Tubbs Jones was a good friend to Hillary Rodham Clinton who stuck with her through the primary, and Biden said he believes she would be proud of the collaboration of Obama and Clinton today.

Proceeds from the event, which drew 280 to the famed golf resort, will be used to fund scholarships and internships for college and graduate students.
Disproportionate minority confinement: is it just lip service or does anybody want it fixed?

With two studies conducted by two different committees sitting in the Governor’s office what’s the status of disproportionate minority confinement (DMC)?

We have had newspaper articles stating that our numbers are increasing, and we have countless numbers of cases that have suspect charges from county attorney’s that seem excessive. At some point we as the community must ask if we are getting incarcerated for a crime and for a longer sentences.

Sub-urban white kids have diversion programs available to them, and some very serious crimes get overlooked and the perpetrator gets a chance to get the incident of his or her record, but I ask why can’t this be for all youth? Why don’t we have a diversion program for inner-city youth, or youth without financial resources?

It’s time to ask our elected officials—some of whom participated in the studies mentioned earlier—for their influence and help to resolve this shameful part of Iowa’s present and history.

Here is a case that we should all get involved with it my provide the tipping point the generates the kind of activism that we need.

The situation I am seeking your assistance with is a young man on my caseload that has had a scrape with the system and is really getting a raw deal. He is sixteen with no formal juvenile charges. He had a disagreement and was involved in a fight at school with a young man.

After the altercation ended, Deandre decided to kick this kids pop. The school resource was provided information about the situation and charged Deandre with robbery second, which is an automatic waiver to the adult system. The assumption was that Deandre charges would be plead down and he would be waived back to juvenile court, seeing was though he had no prior formal charges in the juvenile system and because of the content of the situation. While Deandre was on pretrial release he participated in service with our organization. He attended substance abuse treatment, boxed for the club we have and was attending an alternative educational setting and doing well.

The public defender assigned to his case did not do his research and did not make any of the providers working with Deandre aware of his waiver hearing. Unprepared the attorney went before the judge and the judge declined the waiver back to juvenile court. The public defender also missed the deadline to appeal the judgment and is trying to persuade Deandre to plead guilty to the charges in order to be placed in the youthful offenders program. If Deandre accepts this offer which is the best offer the county attorney is giving, he faces a minimum seven years in prison if he violates the agreement.

Deandre was then arrested and sent to the Polk County jail to await hearing in the adult system. The assumption was that Deandre charges would be plead down and he would be waived back to juvenile court, seeing was though he had no prior formal charges in the juvenile system and because of the content of the situation. While Deandre was on pretrial release he participated in service with our organization. He attended substance abuse treatment, boxed for the club we have and was attending an alternative educational setting and doing well.

The public defender assigned to his case did not do his research and did not make any of the providers working with Deandre aware of his waiver hearing. Unprepared the attorney went before the judge and the judge declined the waiver back to juvenile court. The public defender also missed the deadline to appeal the judgment and is trying to persuade Deandre to plead guilty to the charges in order to be placed in the youthful offenders program. If Deandre accepts this offer which is the best offer the county attorney is giving, he faces a minimum seven years in prison if he violates the agreement. I feel like this case is a good example of reasons why there is a disproportionate number of minorities in the judicial system. I also feel like pressure needs to be put on the county attorney’s office in order to make sure that this kid doesn’t become a victim of the system.

Now this cannot be the only choice for this young man, we… the community… this community needs—no must come to his aid and call all of the elected officials and the county attorney’s office and make a difference and save this young man from a bad system error. We can do this.

Change happened…. Change Continues…. Moving Toward Change …..JB

The Bridgestone Firestone Agricultural Tire Plant in Des Moines, Iowa is one of the largest manufacturing corporations in Iowa. We employ over 1,500 teammates and offer excellent career opportunities. Bridgestone Firestone offers a competitive benefits package, development opportunities, tuition reimbursement program, and leadership and technical training.

If you are interested in applying for a position with Bridgestone Firestone, you can apply different ways:

• On line at www.firestoneag.com
• Faxing your resume to: 515-235-4079
• By contacting your local Iowa Workforce Development Office
• Send a copy of your resume to:
  Firestone Agricultural Tire
  ATTN: Salary Human Resources
  4600 N.W. 2nd Ave
  Des Moines, Ia. 50306

Note: If you are sending your resume by fax or by mail, please include the position for which you are applying. Positions are listed online and at the Iowa Workforce Development offices.

“Bridgestone Americas Holding is an Equal Opportunity Employer.”

Bridgestone Firestone is a Drug Free Workplace and requires a pre-employment drug screen, physical, and background check.

Judge Won’t Toss Evidence In Plot Against Obama

JACKSON, Tenn. (AP) - A federal judge has refused to throw out prosecution evidence against two white supremacists charged with plotting to kill President Barack Obama and dozens of other black people.

The ruling by Judge J. Daniel Breen means prosecutors can show a trial jury the guns, swords, computer files and other items seized from Daniel Cowart and Paul Schlesselman when they were arrested late last year.

Breen also refused to dismiss statements Cowart and Schlesselman made to federal investigators.

Cowart, 20, of Bells, Tenn., and Schlesselman, 18, of Helena-West Helena, Ark., are awaiting trial without bond. No trial date has been set.

Defense lawyers argued at a two-day hearing before Breen last month that Cowart and Schlesselman were arrested and searched without warrants and government evidence against them should be dismissed. Breen rejected those arguments in a ruling filed Friday.

Authorities describe Cowart and Schlesselman as white supremacists who met over the Internet and hatched a plot for a cross-country robbery and killing spree that was to culminate with an attack on Obama, who was then the Democratic candidate for president.

When arrested, Cowart and Schlesselman were staying with Cowart’s maternal grandparents in rural northwest Tennessee. Much of the government’s evidence against the two was seized by Haywood County sheriff’s deputies from the grandparents’ residence.

While the deputies did not have a search warrant, Breen said, they had the grandfather’s permission to search the house.

Items seized from the residence included a sawed-off shotgun, a high-power rifle, a handgun and several swords and knives. Authorities also seized computers, cell phones and other items from the Tennessee residence and from the home of Schlesselman’s father in Arkansas.

Federal investigators were called in after the arrests and took both written and recorded statements from Cowart and Schlesselman in which authorities say they talked about their plans, which included shooting at Obama from a speeding car while wearing white tuxedos and top hats.

“They interpreting agents made reasonable efforts to inform both defendants of their constitutional rights, ensure their understanding of these rights and obtain voluntary waivers,” Breen said in his ruling.

Cowart and Schlesselman are charged in federal indictments with possessing an illegal firearm, carrying guns across state lines to commit crimes of violence, planning to rob a licensed firearms dealer and threatening a presidential candidate.

Iowa Civil Rights Commission

Working Toward A State Free of Discrimination

Enforcement of Civil Rights Laws
Education and Training for Groups, Individuals and Organizations
Raising the Profile of Civil Rights and Diversity

For more information, or questions, or concerns, please contact us at:

400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515-281-4121 or 1-800-457-4416
www.state.ia.us/government/crc
PARIS, Texas (AP) - Protesters angered by the dismissal of murder charges against two white men accused of fatally striking a black man with a pickup truck rallied outside an East Texas courthouse Monday, vowing to get the Department of Justice to look at the case.

About 150 people showed up for the protest, including members of the Nation of Islam and the New Black Panther Party. Participants said they were angry at what they called a pattern of unequal justice for whites and blacks in Paris, about 90 miles northeast of Dallas.

It nearly turned violent when one man swiped at a self-identified Klansman named Rock Banks. Banks, who said he is a grand titan in the East Texas Ku Klux Klan, was holding a small patch displaying a Nazi-era Iron Cross.

Sheriff’s deputies escorted Banks and others away from the scene while protesters called him “cracker” and shouted curse words. No one was arrested.

The protest was organized last week after a special prosecutor, citing a lack of evidence, had dismissed charges against Shannon Finley and Charles Crostley, who were accused of killing their friend, 24-year-old Brandon McClelland. His mangled body was found Sept. 16 on a country road, and authorities estimated it had been dragged more than 70 feet beneath a vehicle.

McClelland was chained by the ankles to a pickup by three white men, who then drove him to a country road and dropped him. McClelland’s family members brought a petition last week calling for the Department of Justice to investigate the case.

McClelland’s family, McClelland’s mother, Jacqueline, said she believes Crostley and Finley were guilty of running over her son.

But investigators working for the defendants’ attorneys located a gravel truck driver who last month gave a sworn statement acknowledging he might have accidentally run over McClelland. He said the trucker’s attorney, Mike Mosher, said his client was given immunity. He said the trucker does not know any of the parties involved.

Shook, a Dallas attorney, said he dismissed the charges “in the interest of justice,” acknowledging there were no eyewitnesses or physical evidence against Finley and Crostley, who maintain their innocence.

But protesters said the dismissals were the injustice - and another example of racial inequality in Paris, a town with a history of tense racial relations.

“A black man’s life is still not worth a white man’s life in Paris, Texas,” said activist Anthony Bond. “I am 55 years old, and I know racism when I see it. Paris, Texas is eaten up with racism.”

Authorities had arrested Finley and Crostley, working on the theory that the trio went on a late-night beer run into Oklahoma from their dry county. On the way back, authorities alleged, the men argued over whether Finley was too drunk to drive. McClelland got out of the truck to walk home, and Finley ran over him.

In an arrest affidavit, authorities said they saw human blood on the underside of Finley’s truck. But the vehicle was tested in a lab three times, and no biological evidence was found to link it to McClelland’s death.

“One minute you’ve got evidence, and the next minute you don’t?” said Jacqueline McClelland. “Nobody is charged in my son’s death. It’s just cruel and unjust.”

Activists vowed to get the Department of Justice to take an interest in the case and have begun writing letters to the White House and Attorney General Eric Holder.

A Department of Justice spokesman did not immediately respond to a message left by The Associated Press.

“It’s going to be a huge campaign to get the attorney general involved,” said Deric Muhammad of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Houston. “They released two killers on an if. They released two killers on a maybe. They released two killers on an if. They released two killers on an if.”

Protesters carried signs saying “We Want Justice” and “Where is the Justice for Brandon?” Leaders of the rally spoke through a bullhorn, leading participants in chants of “Black Power” and “No Justice/No Peace.”

McClelland’s family members brought a personal touch to the rally, wiping away tears as they talked about their son and brother.

“What if it was your son? Would you fight for your kid?” said McClelland’s father, Bobby McCleary. “I miss that one word my son used to say. Pops. He didn’t call me Dad. He called me Pops.”

In an interview with the AP last week, Finley said he and his friends were drunk and high, and he acknowledged arguing with McClelland about who should drive home. Finley and Crostley left him on the side of the road, returning once to persuade him to get back in. McClelland refused, so they continued home. Finley said.

Later that morning, Finley said, he and Crostley learned of McClelland’s death.
Sen. Burris Pleads On Taped Call For Senate Appointment

The new senator has been under intense scrutiny since he was appointed by the now-outsted governor in December, and for chang-
ing his story multiple times about whether he promised anything in exchange for it. The ethics committee began a preliminary investiga-
tion into how Burris got his job, and the Sangamon County State’s
Attorney was asked to determine whether perjury charges were
warranted.

Burris opens the wiretapped conversation by telling Robert Blagojevich: “I know you’re calling telling me that you’re gonna
make me king of the world.”

“And therefore I can go off to, you know, wherever and do all these
great things,” Burris adds. He says that he has “been trying to figure
what the heck, you know, I can do.”

“We’ve had a number of conversations about, you know, anything
you might be able to do,” Robert Blagojevich says a moment later.

Burris says he is concerned about how fundraising on his part
would be viewed if he got the Senate seat.

“And I’m trying to figure out how to deal with this and still be in
the consideration for the appointment,” he says.

“I hear ya,” says Robert Blagojevich. “No, I hear ya.”

The then-governor, in a Dec. 9, on charges of scheming to sell
or trade the Senate seat Obama was vacating and using the
political muscle of the governor’s office to squeeze people involved
in state business for campaign contributions.

Blagojevich, ousted by lawmakers in January, and his brother
have both pleaded not guilty in response to charges in the case as have
four other members of the former governor’s inner circle.

Burris talks about a fund in a fundraising event that the Blagojevich
campaign fund already has planned and says he is “wrestling
with” what to do.

“I understand your concerns, ah, Roland,” Robert Blagojevich
says.

“And God knows number one, I, wanna help Rod,” Burris says.

“Number two, I also wanna, you know hope I get a consideration
to get that appointment.”

Neither Robert Blagojevich’s attorney, Michael Ettinger, nor
Wright objected to the governor’s move to give the tapes to the Senate.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney’s office, Randall Samborn, had
no comment.

Burris’ Senate appointment followed at least two phone conversa-
tions between Burris and Robert Blagojevich.

Burris told the Illinois House impeachment committee that he had
promised nothing to Blagojevich in exchange for the seat but has
changed his version of exactly what was said several times and
questions have been raised about what happened.

“Just to set the record straight,” Robert Blagojevich said in the wire-
tapped phone call.

Burris gave the committee an affidavit denying any discussion
with Blagojevich’s aides before being offered the seat. But when he
testified, Burris acknowledged talking to one of Blagojevich’s
friends and informal advisers about it.

Burris did not admit talking to anyone else and said he could not
recall any other contacts.

Then, after he was sworn in, Burris released another affidavit
acknowledging that he had talked to several Blagojevich advisers
about his interest in the seat. Soon after, talking to reporters, he said
he had been asked to help raise campaign money for the governor
and tried to find people willing to donate but failed.

Then he stopped answering questions, letting others speak on his
behalf.

Ku Klux Klansman’s
Conviction Upheld In
1964 Kidnappings

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - A reputed Ku Klux Klansman will remain
in prison after a federal appeals court rejected a bid by four men
abducted the teens who authorities said were beaten, weighted
down and thrown, possibly still alive, into a Mississippi River
backwater in May 1964.

Seale was serving three life sentences in the kidnappings of
Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee when the convic-
tion was thrown out last year by a panel of three 5th U.S. Circuit
Court of Appeals judges. The panel’s decision was overturned
Friday by the entire court in an evenly divided vote.

The three-judge panel acquitted Seale of the charges in Sep-
tember based on the argument that the statute of limitation had
expired between the time of the kidnappings and Seale’s indict-
ment nearly 43 years later. Seale remained behind bars while the
government challenged that decision.

The full 5th Circuit did not comment on the specifics of the statute of
limitations issue in its two-page ruling, and the tie vote
means the court affirmed the trial judge’s original finding that the
statute of limitations had not passed. It sent the case back to
the panel for consideration of other issues raised on appeal.

The development is significant not only because it will keep
Seale behind bars, but that federal prosecutors will continue to
have kidnapping charges as an option in current investigations
to civil rights crimes of the 1960s.

At the time the two 19-year-olds disappeared, kidnapping was
a crime punishable by death or imprisonment under federal law,
with no statute of limitations. However, in 1972 the federal
kidnapping law was rewritten to remove the death penalty provi-
sion, which made a five-year statute of limitations apply. Seale’s
attorneys had argued the five-year limit applied retroactively to
his case.

Kathy Nester, a federal public defender who represents Seale,
declined to comment.

Thomas Moore, the 65-year-old brother of Charles Moore, said he
was elated over the ruling.

“As I’ve said before, there was no doubt that Seale was guilty
... so I’m glad that the 5th Circuit took a second shot at it with the
whole panel,” Thomas Moore said. “They visualized that other
cold cases could be effected by the three-judge panel’s ruling.”

Prosecutors say Seale, a former crop duster, was with a group of
Klansmen in 1964 when they abducted Moore and Dee from a rural
stretch of highway in southwest Mississippi. The Klansmen
took the teens into the woods and beat and interrogated them about
rumors that blacks in the area were planning an armed uprising.

Prosecutors said.

The decomposed bodies were found in July 1964 as federal
authorities searched for the bodies of three civil rights workers
who had also disappeared that summer. That case became known as
“Mississippi Burning” and overshadowed the deaths of Dee
and Moore.

Seale and another man, Charles Marcus Edwards, briefly faced
state murder charges in the deaths of Dee and Moore in 1964, but
the charges were quickly thrown out and Seale’s convictions for
rape and kidnapping were overturned.

Edwards was convicted of conspiracy with the Klansmen.

Many people thought Seale was dead until 2005, when he was
discovered living a town not far from where the teens were
abducted. He was ruled incompetent to stand trial and was
sentenced to die.

Moore has both pleaded no guilty in response to charges in the case as have
four other members of the former governor’s inner circle.

Burris talks about a fund in a fundraising event that the Blagojevich
campaign fund already has planned and says he is “wrestling
with” what to do.

“I understand your concerns, ah, Roland,” Robert Blagojevich
says.

“And God knows number one, I, wanna help Rod,” Burris says.

“Number two, I also wanna, you know hope I get a consideration
to get that appointment.”

Neither Robert Blagojevich’s attorney, Michael Ettinger, nor
Wright objected to the governor’s move to give the tapes to the Senate.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney’s office, Randall Samborn, had
no comment.

Burris’ Senate appointment followed at least two phone conversa-
tions between Burris and Robert Blagojevich.

Burris told the Illinois House impeachment committee that he had
promised nothing to Blagojevich in exchange for the seat but has
changed his version of exactly what was said several times and
questions have been raised about what happened.

“Just to set the record straight,” Robert Blagojevich said in the wire-
tapped phone call.

Burris gave the committee an affidavit denying any discussion
with Blagojevich’s aides before being offered the seat. But when he
testified, Burris acknowledged talking to one of Blagojevich’s
friends and informal advisers about it.

Burris did not admit talking to anyone else and said he could not
recall any other contacts.

Then, after he was sworn in, Burris released another affidavit
acknowledging that he had talked to several Blagojevich advisers
about his interest in the seat. Soon after, talking to reporters, he said
he had been asked to help raise campaign money for the governor
and tried to find people willing to donate but failed.

Then he stopped answering questions, letting others speak on his
behalf.
Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

The Blessings Of God

Scripture Reference: Genesis 32:26

“But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’”

How much do we want the blessings of God? Do we want Him enough to struggle and suffer through the tough times... the seasons of persecution... and the seemingly impossible situations? It is up to us how much we want what God has promised us. We have a choice! We can either sit back and watch life pass us by, or we can choose to participate in the journey that God has laid out for us. We will only receive as much as we open ourselves up to.

God wants us to be persistent and consistent. That means, He doesn’t want us to give up on or let go of our pursuit of Him and His promises. He wants us to persevere and press our way through. In our time of struggle He wants us to endure, because on the other side of the suffering is His glory... His victory! He wants us to go through these seasons of struggle to build character and to strengthen our faith. And while we are persistent, He wants us to be consistent in our daily prayer, meditation and study of His Word. Even in our time of struggle we must search for God. We have a responsibility to do our part if we want the blessings of God.

The blessings of God are ours as He has already promised them to us. He is waiting to see how much we want the blessings. He wants us to pursue Him with a passion like none other. He encourages a spirit of persistence and consistency. Our actions toward Him will say “God we love you so much that we will not let you go until you bless us!”

New Normal: We need to open ourselves up to God. We must be persistent and pursue Him with a passion that it will let God know that we will not let Him go until He blesses us!

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

Letter To The Seventh Church For Your Spiritual Diet

By Carolyn Clinton King, C., Th.D

Welcome back dear heart, it’s another day’s journey, aren’t you glad about it? We are looking into the book of Revelation as we are now living in the 6th Dispensation, the “Age of Grace”. (“Grace”, the unmerited favor of God, Ephesians 2:8) Let’s keep our eyes not on the hills from whence cometh our help, but help cometh from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth.

What a startling phrase: “Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock” (Rev. 3:20). “Knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the church. Rev. 3:20-22)

Dr. Clarence Larkin says, “This is the most startling thing recorded in the New Testament, that it is possible for a church to be outwardly prosperous and yet have no Christ in its midst, and be unconscious of the fact. This is a description of a Christless Church. Oh, the “Excluded Christ”. Excluded from His own nation, for they Rejected Him; excluded from the world, for it Crucified Him; excluded from His Church, for He stands outside its door Knocking for Entrance.”

How did Christ come to be outside the Church? He had been within it once or there never would have been a Church. How did He come to leave? It seems clear that they (the church at Laodicea), had not thrust Him out, for they do not seem to have missed His presence. They continued to worship Him, to sing His praises, and engage in all manner of Christian service, yet He had withdrawn. Why? The reason is summed up in one word — Worldliness.

So dear reader, the question before us at this reading is “How is Christ to get back into His Church? Does it require an unanimous vote or invitation of the membership?” No. Jesus said, “If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to Him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” That is, the way to revive a lukewarm church is for the individual members to open their hearts and let Christ re-enter, and thus open the door for His reappearance.

“T’The character of the Church today is Laodicean, and as the Laodicean Period is to continue until the Church of the “new-born”, “born again believers” is open their hearts and let Christ re-enter, and thus open the door for His reappearance.”

It is noted that these words are generally quoted as an appeal to sinners, but they are not, they are addressed to a Church, and to a Church in whose midst Christ had once stood, but now found Himself excluded and standing outside knocking for admittance.

Dr. Clarence Larkin says, “This is the most startling thing recorded in the New Testament, that it is possible for a church to be outwardly prosperous and yet have no Christ in its midst, and be unconscious of the fact. This is a description of a Christless Church. Oh, the “Excluded Christ”. Excluded from His own nation, for they Rejected Him; excluded from the world, for it Crucified Him; excluded from His Church, for He stands outside its door Knocking for Entrance.”

The Blessings Of God

The success we seek only comes from a relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ, and allowing his life to flow through us. The success we seek only comes from a relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ, and allowing his life to flow through us.

Before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, we were here. Before the pen of Jefferson etched across the pages of history the majestic words of the Declaration of Independence, we were here. If the inexpressible cruelties of slavery could not stop us, the opposition we now face will surely fail. — Martin Luther King, Jr.
Naval Academy Reaches Record Diversity For Frosh

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - The U.S. Naval Academy’s incoming class will have a higher percentage of minorities than any other in history, the superintendent said Monday.

Vice Adm. Jeffrey Fowler, who has made diversity a top priority, said minorities will make up about 35 percent of the Class of 2013. That’s 7 percent higher than the Class of 2012, which had the most minorities up to that point.

The aim is to increase the ranks of minority officers in the Navy. When students graduate, they are commissioned as officers.

“Now, enrollment is not the measure, but if you want to get commissions you’ve got to get people enrolled here,” Fowler told the academy’s Board of Visitors, which functions as a Board of Trustees at a civilian college.

While increasing the number of minority students is a big step forward, Fowler emphasized that the academy’s work is not done.

“We need to ensure a successor of mine can tell this board in four years that not only did we have the most acceptances - that we have the most commissioning of minorities in the history of the Naval Academy,” Fowler said. “That is a true measure.”

The academy has seen a big increase in the number of African-American students - from about 6 percent in the Class of 2012 to about 10 percent for the incoming class. The number of Hispanic students is more than 14 percent in the Class of 2013, up from more than 10 percent the year before.

The academy has increased outreach efforts in parts of the country that are underrepresented at the school, particularly inner cities.

The academy has received the highest number of applications from minority students in the school’s history for the Class of 2013, which will have a total of about 1,230 students. Out of a total of 15,300 applications - the most since 1988 - the academy received 4,300 applications from minorities, a 57 percent increase compared to the year before.

“The effort has been going on for years, but it is really starting to pick up,” Fowler said. “So when you have a pool like that, you can really find some talent.”

Lt. Jeannine Benjamin, a 2003 graduate and a diversity admissions counselor at the academy who has been focusing on boosting interest in New York City, said she concentrates on raising awareness of the academy’s opportunities.

“I spend a lot of time actually going out and meeting with schools, meeting with guidance counselors, meeting with people of influence so that they can go into their communities and talk about the Naval Academy and the great opportunities of being an officer in the Navy,” Benjamin said.

The academy also has been engaging in outreach efforts to members of Congress, who nominate students to attend the service academies, to underscore the important roles they play in bringing students to the schools. So far, the academy has met with 17 members of Congress this year, including Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus.
Soweto Weekend: B&B, Mandela Tour, Protest Museum

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Southern African home cooking sounds comforting: sangak - chunky corn confection; pop; a filling porridge; mogodu, boiled tripe. OK, the last sounded better before the translation. But my husband and even my 5-year-old daughter are more adventurous eaters than I am. We all find something tempting at the buffet at Sakhumzi, and the popular restaurant is a welcome stop at the end of a drizzly day spent exploring Soweto, with stops at the former home of Nelson Mandela and an anti-apartheid protest museum and an overnight at a homey B&B.

We’d started that morning driving through the rows of mine dumps – low zigzags a stapled-out shade of yellow - that isolate Soweto from the rest of Johannesburg. We entered the famed township on the Soweto Highway, past neat new homes, and headed to our bed-and-breakfast in Soweto’s Orlando West neighborhood.

Soon our hostess Nthateng Motaung, who grew up in the home she’s converted to accommodate up to eight guests, was cheerfully ushering us out her door on foot. She said we’d find the neighbors friendly and that the reports we’d heard about street crime in Soweto were greatly exaggerated.

We live closer to central Johannesburg, in an area once reserved for whites, where high security walls and few sidewalks create a pedestrian no-go zone. But Soweto was established in the 1930s as a dormitory for Johannesburg’s maids, gardeners and miners, blacks who apartheid’s engineers never dreamed would own cars.

The majority of black South Africans remain poor 15 years after the end of white rule, and Soweto has few cars relative to its population, estimated at just over 1 million - four of 10 Johannesburg residents are Sowetans. Narrow streets off main roads remain pedestrian thoroughfares, and sidewalks are being repaved at every turn. Less than a block from Nthateng Bed & Breakfast we found No. 8115, one of Nelson Mandela’s first homes in Johannesburg. Mandela moved in a year after the house was built in 1945, with his first wife. His second wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and their two daughters later lived there for decades, mostly on their own, while the anti-apartheid hero was on the run or in prison.

“The house itself was identical to hundreds of others built on postage-stamp-size plots on dirt roads,” Mandela wrote in his autobiography. “It had the same standard tin roof, the same cement floor, a narrow kitchen, and a bucket toilet at the back.”

Today, Soweto has some solid, middle-class houses - or mansions like Winnie Madikizela-Mandela’s a few blocks from No. 8115. Many Sowetans still call the original match boxes home. The day we visited Mandela’s house, we spotted a neighbor headed to a backyard toilet, roll of paper in hand.

Our B&B had indoor bathrooms, satellite TV, and a dining room where a breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, cereal and too much more is served on a white tablecloth.

Mandela’s house was reopened to the public in March after months of restoration that preserved the bullet holes and scorched bricks that testify to its place in South Africa’s violent history. Mementoes like a pair of army boots Winnie Madikizela-Mandela once wore, and multimedia narration give a sense of the country’s past and its hopes for the future.

Enlarged photos show Winnie Madikizela-Mandela ironing in the house, another of her being bundled into a police car parked outside. Enter a room, and it is filled with recordings of news accounts of Soweto riots. Press a button mounted on a panel outside, and hear Winnie Madikizela-Mandela describing burying the umbilical cords of her children and grandchildren under a tree that still stands in the cramped yard, bringing to the city a rural tradition that tied new generations to their ancestors and their land.

First-person history is used with equally poignant effect at another museum just up the hill. This one is dedicated to the 1976 Soweto uprising and overlooks the site where 13-year-old Hector Pietersen was shot and killed by police during the unrest. A photograph of a dying Pietersen carried in the arms of another young protester remains a symbol of apartheid’s brutality.

The modern brick and glass Hector Pietersen museum built in 2002 pays tribute to all the victims of 1976, and chronicles with verve and humanity young people’s involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle.

The ‘76 protests are often attributed to student anger over being taught in Afrikaans, the language of Dutch colonizers and their descendants. But the museum showcases interviews that make clear young black kids were rising up against much more - a system that treated them as inferior.

Fikile Ngcobo, an English teacher at Orlando West Junior Secondary School in the 1970s, says she was trained to view her job as filling an empty vessel, not engaging with a human being.

“All you do is pour until it is full,” she recalls in an interview preserved in the museum’s archives. “How it gets full, how it feels when it gets full was just one thing that was never thought of.”

The museum’s book shop stocks a wide range of fiction and history about South Africa and the region. Outside, vendors sell handicrafts, including lengths of cloth worn as skirts in the ANC’s green, yellow and black printed with portraits of Mandela and of South Africa’s newest president, Jacob Zuma. Just up the hill, a latte at Namibthu, another Soweto landmark, can provide a shot of energy before more sightseeing.

We could have confined ourselves to Orlando West, where Cape Town’s retired Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu still has a home. But we managed a few side trips over our two days.

One was a short drive to a hilltop site in Soweto’s Central Western Jabavu district where writer and artist Credo Mutwa built sculptures in and around traditional huts in the 1970s. A fading, hand-lettered sign says, “This place is no mere museum or tourist attraction. It is a holy place, where African cultures, religions and ... sciences are preserved in pictures and sculpture form.”

My daughter Thandi likes a larger-than-life diorama out of a natural history museum from some alternative universe. It shows a cave man and his wife protecting their child from rampaging dinosauuars.

My favorite is a seated king, his head swollen to the point of bursting because he’s too selfish to share his knowledge, according to commentary offered by Philip Thamaga, a potter and sculptor with a studio in the complex.

Mutwa’s folksy is set in a park built in 1957 with money donated by mining magnate Ernest Oppenheimer. The 30-meter (100-foot) Oppenheimer Tower at the center of the park was built from bricks scavenged from homes demolished in Sophiatown when that mixed-race neighborhood in northern Johannesburg was declared all-white in the 1950s and its black residents were forced to move to Soweto.

Another short drive took us to Thokoza Park, straddling Soweto’s Moroka and Rockville neighborhoods. It’s near Regina Mundi, a Catholic church known as “the people’s cathedral” when it was a center of anti-apartheid protests and funerals. But our focus was on Thandi’s right to burn some energy.

The park cut by a picturesque stream was refurbished in 2003 as part of a major effort to bring more services to Soweto. It has a duck pond, barbecue pits on a concrete patio, soccer fields and basketball courts. Art exhibits and jazz concerts are staged on its lawns.

A dozen boys were turning swimming into a competitive sport: How high can you soar? Thandi chooses a climbing frame shaped like a jet.

“I’m a pilot!” she sang out.

She’d already pronounced herself at home in Soweto, perhaps because she’s spoiled everywhere. Motaung, our B&B hostess, treated Thandi like her own daughter, stepping in to braid her hair.

Thandi pressed in front of a mirror, then declared: “I love Soweto!”
French Honor D-Day Vet From All-Black Unit

ROANOKE, Va. (AP) - As a soldier in World War II, William Dabney was used to the military’s segregated quarters. An African-American, he had no contact with his white counterparts.

Until D-Day, black and white soldiers stormed Omaha Beach together on June 6, 1944, Dabney recalled. “We were going in to battle,” he said. “Nobody had much use of their arms.”

Dabney said he didn’t have much interaction with the white soldiers. An African-American, he had no contact with his white counterparts.

William Dabney was used to the military’s segregated quarters. He was the leader of a barrage balloon battalion that protected anti-aircraft guns. Barrage balloons were like small blimps filled with helium, he said, and were used to interfere with enemy strafings.

The troops were under fire when they hit the beach, he said. Dabney said he didn’t have much interaction with the white soldiers on D-Day. “We were going in to battle,” he said. “Nobody had much to say.”

Dabney was the leader of a barrage balloon battalion that protected anti-aircraft guns. Barrage balloons were like small blimps filled with helium, he said, and were used to interfere with enemy strafings.

“Communicate to Educate”

High Definition Radio

Listen to:

- Tell Me More, Michelle Martin, Host
- News & Notes, Farayi Chidyea, Host
- Like It Is, Dr. Robert Franklin, Host

Celebrating over 30 years in broadcasting across Iowa and beyond

Streaming “live” at www.kbbgfm.org

Iowa Bystander Mission

The responsibility of the Black press is to empower the Black community through meaningful communication and leadership nurturing, and to keep the Black community informed of those issues most vital to us as a people.

Iowa Bystander

President, CEO & Publisher • Jerald Brantley, Sr.
Associate Publisher • Gaynelle Narcisse

Guidelines For Submitting Copy:

- Iowa Bystander is published weekly. Copy must be typed. Editorials, news items and press releases should be 600 words or less. Public service announcements, thank you notes, etc...should be 300 words or less. All copy is subject to the editorial policy of Iowa Bystander.
- Pictures submitted with articles become the property of Iowa Bystander.
- All submitted copy or photos should contain a phone number and the name of the contact person who can be reached if questions arise.

Iowa Bystander Is Published Weekly By:

IPJ Media, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 98
Des Moines, IA 50301
Phone: 515-288-7677 or 515-770-1218
iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

Advertise your jobline in Bystander!

leading iowans in caring for our natural resources

to learn about opportunities at the DNR visit

www.iowawdnr.gov

EEO/AA
Grammy Artist J. Moss Live In Concert
To Kick Off Iowa Juneteenth Observance!

J. Moss will kick off the week long festivities of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance starting on Friday June 12th at the Des Moines First Assembly of God Church, located at 2725 Merle Hay Road. The concert starts at 7pm and doors open at 6pm! Admission at the door is $20.00 for adults and $15.00 for students (up to 18 years old).

Reike Plecas, Co-chair of the Church Day activities, said that the Grammy Artist has brought great attention to the Midwest already and the crowd is expected to top nearly 1300 persons. Plecas, who has worked with Derrick Haddon, Walt Whitman & SCC, Kevin Vasser, Nate Pointer and Antwaun Stanley, says that “Iowa is making her mark on the map for Gospel Stops.”

“We have been swamped with emails inquiring on reserved seats and First Assembly will hold 1300 comfortably so all seats sold at the door are on a first come first serve seating.” Iowa Juneteenth will sell group seats and you may contact us for further availability and times of sale.

“The celebration of praise features a 100-person choir and dance team comprised of about 13 different Churches, Gospel recording artists Tony Tidwell on keyboards and ‘new comer’ Gospel artist Nate Pointer, who was recently featured at the Grammy Artist has brought great attention to the Midwest already and the crowd is expected to top nearly 1300 persons. Plecas, who has worked with Derrick Haddon, Walt Whitman & SCC, Kevin Vasser, Nate Pointer and Antwaun Stanley, says that “Iowa is making her mark on the map for Gospel Stops.”

“We have been swamped with emails inquiring on reserved seats and First Assembly will hold 1300 comfortably so all seats sold at the door are on a first come first serve seating.” Iowa Juneteenth will sell group seats and you may contact us for further availability and times of sale.

The Iowa Juneteenth Observance has earned the sponsorship and support of several Central Iowa Churches this year to the support of the church related activities. “As we continue to build the Iowa Juneteenth Observance, we will continue to expand the involvement and support of the churches”, said Gary Lawson, General Chairperson.

If you don’t want to stand in line at the concert, advance tickets are on sale at: Cornerstone Family Church on June 6th from 11am – Noon. Call 515-440-1235 or 515-274-1433 for additional ticket information.

For group ticket information you may call 515-440-1235 (Plecas) or 515-274-1433 (Lawson). You may also email Plecas at rplicas@yahoo.com or Lawson at gmps2000@aol.com. Visit www.iowajuneteenth.org for more information.

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 ethical, 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 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 6:00 p.m.
Merge – Ministry for Singles over 30
2nd Saturday of each month 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Radio Ministry
Fri. 11:30 a.m. & Sun. 7:30 a.m. on Praise 940 AM
Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org

To Iowa Bystander:
On behalf of the entire Brown family we wish to thank the staff and editors of the Iowa Bystander Newspaper, in printing the wonderful article on our daughter, First Class/Minster Quanda Annette Brown!

...She is due to arrive back in the states in a few weeks and we hastily emailed this blessed recognition to her.
We know she is very proud and honored that the community and Iowa supports her and the soldiers in this task that they have chosen.

Once again, we thank you so very much for what you have enlightened us with!

God bless and keep each of you is our continual prayer!

Deacon Larry & Min. Judith Brown

Iowa Bystander Church Directory
...how are they to hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

Burans United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street – DSM, IA 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883
Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Dr. Willy L. Mafuta
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 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: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Free Medical Clinic: 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 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 Church: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 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 Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School Church: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:00 a.m., Praise 940 AM

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Address: E.Univ. & McCormick – DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1785
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:40 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

...how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:15

To get your church in our directory call Jon at 515-770-1218!
The Economy, Tax Policy The Focus Of Congressional Report

Iowa Congressman Tom Latham leads a discussion on the economy and tax policy during the latest episode of his monthly television show, which airs on cable stations throughout Iowa and is available online.

For the June episode of the “Congressional Report,” Congressman Latham hosts Chris Edwards, the director of tax policy studies at the Cato Institute, to discuss the government’s response to the economic downturn.

The episode features an in-depth look at how tax policy impacts the ability of working families and small businesses to recover during a recession.

“The debate in Congress and the decisions we make now have the power to speed up the transition to prosperity or to delay it. The stakes are high, and I’ll work hard to make sure we get it right,” Congressman Latham said.

The “Congressional Report” airs statewide on Mediacom Channel 22 on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Episodes of the television show are also available on Congressman Latham’s Web site, www.latham.house.gov, and on his YouTube Channel. www.youtube.com/user/ CongressmanTomLatham.

Sen. Harkin Applauds Release Of More Than $316 Million Education Programs Across Iowa

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) applauded Education Secretary Arne Duncan’s release of $316 million in education funding for Iowa. The funding was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Economic Recovery Package, and is part of the more than $400 million initial investment in education initiatives across the state.

Today’s funding is being made available per Iowa’s successful completion of Part I of the State Stabilization Application, which was made available on April 1st. The state will be eligible to apply for another $156 million this fall.

The Recovery Package included the largest one-time investment in education in the nation’s history, almost $100 billion nationally. Harkin is the Chairman of the Senate panel that funds education programs.

“The release of these dollars will have an immediate impact on schools across the state by protecting teaching jobs and fighting cuts to local budgets,” said Harkin. “This funding will ensure Iowa students continue to thrive with the best teachers and materials available.”

To date, Iowa has received more than $94 million in education stimulus funds—representing a combination of funding for Title I, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation Grants and Independent Living Grants. On April 1st, Iowa received $26 million in Title I funding and $65 million in IDEA funding. This represents 50 percent of the Title I and IDEA funding Iowa is eligible for in total.

On April 1st, Iowa also received nearly $3 million in vocational rehab funds and $621 thousand in Independent Living funds.

Harkin Announces $72 Million In Grants For Housing Assistance Across Iowa

U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) announced that the Iowa Finance Authority has been awarded $72,772,712 in grants from the U.S. Department of Treasury to ease pressure on the housing market. These funds were included in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the Economic Recovery Package.

“Safe, affordable housing is one of our most basic needs – particularly for low-income Iowans,” said Harkin. “These funds will create construction and development that will generate jobs as well as allow low and moderate income families to obtain affordable housing.”

In response to the recent housing crisis, the Treasury Department launched a program that provides more than $3 billion from the Economic Recovery Act to put people to work building quality, affordable housing for individuals and families affected by the current crisis.

The Treasury Department will work with state housing agencies to jump start the development or renovation of qualified affordable housing for families across the country. Under this program, after meeting certain eligibility requirements, state housing agencies will receive funding to construct affordable housing developments.

Harkin Praises Announcement Of Over $24 Million For Floodplain Easement Projects

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) praised the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) announcement that $24,135,568 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Economic Recovery Package, will be used for 42 floodplain easement projects across Iowa.

The funding will purchase easements from landowners along floodplains to allow land prone to flooding to be restored to a natural state. These easements reduce damage to private property both upstream and downstream by taking the easement out of production and by allowing flood waters to slow down and spread out. These easements also provide fish and wildlife habitat, open space and recreational opportunities.

Harkin is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry as well as a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and helped to secure these funds in the final version of the Recovery Act.

“As we approach the one-year anniversary of the flooding that devastated Iowa, these funds will continue the process of rebuilding our state and help to prevent future flooding,” said Harkin. “In addition to restoring and improving our natural resources, these Recovery Act dollars will create good jobs across Iowa and infuse money into the state’s economy.”

Under the Recovery Act, USDA received $145 million for floodplain easement projects. The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program’s floodplain easement component allows USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) to acquire permanent easements on private land, or certain land owned by units of state and local governments, that have been damaged by flooding at least once in the last 12 months or twice in the past 10 years. Under the floodplain easement, a landowner voluntarily offers to sell to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) a permanent conservation easement that provides the NRCS with full authority to restore and enhance the floodplain’s functions and values. Landowners retain several rights on the property including the right to control public access and right to undeveloped recreational use such as hunting and fishing.

Don’t tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don’t tell them where they know the fish.

Mark Twain

Free Corinthian Health Clinic

I have health questions, who can answer them? - The Polk County Health Department

* I don’t have health insurance or a regular doctor.
* I think something I ate made me sick.
* Does my child need shots or a physical?
* I don’t want to get pregnant.
* I need to get a mammogram or pap.
* I’m worried I may have a sexual infection.
* How can I make sure my child does not get lead poisoning?

Corinthian Baptist Church 9th & Freeway

For information about these and other health concerns call the Polk County Health Department. Our location and walk-in hours make your visit convenient. Most of our services are free, all are confidential.

286-3798

For further information phone 243-4073

Co-Sponsored by: Blank Children’s Hospital Iowa Department of Public Health Corinthian Baptist Church Free Clinics of Iowa

Diabetes Education/ Support Sessions
6:00 - 7:30pm
* diabetes resources
* counseling
* Literature/supplies

Don’t tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don’t tell them where they know the fish.

Mark Twain
That Feeling Of Inferiority

Sometimes after a family or a group of people have been down trodden and oppressed for long periods of time, they begin to accept a definition of themselves cast upon them by someone else. In time, they will begin to see themselves as this definition depicts them. That is a good working definition of power. “The ability to define reality for a group of people and get them to buy into that definition as if it were their own.”

We as a people had been enslaved for something like 400 years, these conditions have to have had a profound effect on ones mind and body, not to mention spirit. The thing that continues to plague me is the behavior I see today. There are several new families that have moved in the homes where I live. It used to be pretty decent on this block, but now I see paper, plastic bottles and other debris on the street. I have seen this sort of litter on other streets and found myself questioning this sort of behavior. I set out to find out why this problem exists.

If you continue to use your maiden name consistently throughout your working years, you do not need to contact us. But if you decide to change your name at a later time, you should let us know so that we can update your Social Security record and send you a Social Security card with your new name.

There’s no need to pay a third-party to mail in the information for you. Changing your name with Social Security is a quick, easy and free service. You’re welcome to visit your local Social Security office. Or just go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber and click on “Print an Application Form SS-5.” You also can call us at 1-800-772-1213 to obtain the form.

We will need the completed application along with either your marriage certificate showing your old and new names or two documents, one showing each name. If you were born outside the United States, you also need proof of your U.S. citizenship or proof that you are lawfully living in the U.S. You can bring or mail these documents to us.

So remember: if you are getting married and changing your name, let us know. You may already have a slew of cards congratulating you, but we’d like to send you a new card of our own.

Learn more about your Social Security card and number at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.
Black Troopers Demand Reforms

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - A group of black troopers is demanding the removal or demotion of nearly a dozen Mississippi Department of Public Safety administrators and a change in the way promotions are awarded.

The Mississippi Central State Troopers Coalition is also seeking a criminal investigation into allegations of steroid and extortion charges, according to the group’s list of 23 recommendations obtained by The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson.

Specific details of those allegations were not revealed.

But other recommendations include having the agency review how it reprimands troopers and assigning black troopers to the New Albany office, where the group says there are none.

A DPS spokesman said the agency has no comment on the recommendations.

The U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission, in a letter made public Wednesday, asked the Department of Public Safety to begin the process of ridding itself of a system that’s relegated black troopers to the lower ranks.

The agency “discriminated against blacks as a class because of their race with respect to assignment, demotions, discharges, discipline, harassment, hiring, intimidation, hostile work environment, promotions and the overall terms and conditions of their employment,” the EEOC said.

The Department of Public Safety was given 14 days to respond.

Public Safety Commissioner Steve Simpson said Wednesday in an e-mailed statement that the EEOC’s report was vague and lacked specifics.

Simpson said the agency “will continue reviewing any potential merits of the allegations and any action, if necessary, that needs to be taken.”

The Highway Patrol has 607 troopers and 208 are black. The work environment at Highway Patrol remains racially charged, Mississippi NAACP President Derrick Johnson said a news conference last week to discuss the EEOC’s findings.

Rep. George Flagg, D-Vicksburg, issued a statement Thursday in which he assailed Simpson to freeze hiring and promotions at the patrol “until they can resolve the issues in the complaint.” Flagg is chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee overseeing the Department of Public Safety’s budget.

DPS spokesman Jon Kalahar said promotions have continued and Simpson and Gov. Haley Barbour say they want to get more details from the EEOC report before making any decisions.

Sgt. James Walker, president of the Central State Trooper’s Coalition, referred questions to the group’s attorney. The attorney did not respond to a message left through Walker.

The coalition sent a letter to Simpson, Barbour and other elected officials in October. The letter cited instances of alleged discrimination. Simpson then appointed a three-member panel to investigate and the NAACP filed a complaint with the EEOC in January.