2009 Iowa Juneteenth Royalty: Johnny E. and Barbara Long

The Iowa Juneteenth Observance is pleased to announce that Johnny E. Long, Jr. and Barbara J. Long of West Des Moines will be crowned as this year’s King and Queen of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance at an hour-long ceremony starting at 5:30 pm and being held at Cornerstone Family Church, located at 3114 SW 61st Street, Des Moines (50321) on June 19. Following the coronation, the Longs will be presented to the audience at the Community Banquet at 7:00 pm, which also is being held at Cornerstone Family Church.

In order to be nominated for the Iowa Juneteenth Observance King and Queen, a couple must be married for a minimum of 35 consecutive years, and have contributed to the betterment of their church and community. The Longs were married in 1951 and are the parents of 6 children. They are also proud grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents. The Longs are members of Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church in Des Moines, where Rev. Bobby Young is the Pastor. They are also active in the Valley Community Church in West Des Moines, where their son, Rev. Stephen E. Long is Pastor. Both husband and wife have demonstrated excellent service in the religious community in positions ranging from the usher board to the Board of Trustees. The Long’s community involvement (present and past membership) includes, but is not limited to, volunteering with the Eddie Davis Community Center, Treasurer, Marquette Cement Plant Credit Union; West Des Moines Hawks Softball team; Secretary, AFL-CIO Local Union; West Des Capitol Improvement Program; President (Johnny) and Secretary (Barbara), Valley Junction Residential Association; West Des Moines Police, Youth Juvenile Initiative; and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Amicae.

As the 2009 Iowa Juneteenth Observance King and Queen, the Longs will continue the tradition of being ambassadors for family values, church service, and community volunteerism just as the royal lineage of 16 King and Queen couples have done before them. The public is invited to witness their coronation on June 19th at 5:30 pm (no cost for admission), and their presentation at the Community Banquet at 7:00 pm, where Rev. H.I. Thomas will be honored as the 2009 Honorary Chairperson of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance.

Author Omar Tyree will be at the Forest Avenue Library on Sunday, June 21 at 2:30 p.m. as part of the library’s AVID Author Series. Tyree is a best-selling urban fiction and has written numerous books on the street issues that confront and sometimes overcome African American men in their everyday lives. Tyree draws on his own upbringing in urban settings as well as years of observing self-destructive behavior firsthand. His many experiences provided the groundwork for his literary career that began in 1990 with his extremely popular coming of age novel, Fly Girl.

Since then Tyree has continued to write urban fiction novels, such as The Last Street Novel, which tells the story of a writer who returns to his roots in the inner city to write a hard-hitting novel in order to reestablish himself. In addition to writing popular urban fiction for adults, Omar is very passionate about educating young people and has a brand new book called, 12 Brown Boys which is a collection of stories about African American preteen boys. Tyree has become extremely popular on the corporate level for his “Equation for Life” lecture, where he weaves together a fool-proof formula for attaining lifelong success in business, as well as everyday living.

The OUT-OF-TOWNERS: Featuring Mr. Allen Narcisse

Allen Narcisse, an Iowa native, is the Vice President of Strategic Planning and Business Development at Paramount Pictures, in Los Angeles, California. He is responsible for assisting in the studio’s M & A activities. Allen is also charged with analyzing strategic decisions that cross over the various operating groups and exploring new business opportunities for the studio.

Prior to working at Paramount, Allen worked at the Los Angeles Times for two and a half years. Most recently, Allen served as the Director of Business Operations of Hoy, the Los Angeles Times’ Spanish Language Daily Newspaper. Also, in Allen’s role as Senior Manager, Advertising Planning, he led the launch of several online and print products. Allen started his career as an Information Technology Consultant for Arthur Andersen in Chicago, Illinois before joining KPMG in Washington, D.C.

Allen earned his Master’s degree in 2005 as a graduate of Harvard Business School. He earned his Bachelors’s degree from the University of Michigan 1999, majoring in Business Administration. Allen is currently involved with the After School Programs & Youth Summer Camps for At Risk Youth located in Los Angeles, California.

This program recognizes that every day, in the United States, as many as 15 million children leave school with no place to go. And every day, many of these at risk youth are involved in crimes, join gangs, or experiment with drugs, alcohol or sex. The “After School All Stars” program offers a proven alternative for these children. This program has created a model after school program for middle-school kids that can be replicated anywhere across the country. This program engages these kids in activities and on-going relationships that increase confidence and encourage success in all areas of their lives - at home, in school and in the community.

The After School All Stars’ program provides comprehensive after school programs that are fun for kids and also keep them safe and help them achieve success in school and life. This program prepares middle school kids for high school, college and the 21st century by offering academic support, enrichment opportunities, and health/fitness activities. This program serves 70,000 youth annually through after school and summer programs in 13 cities across the country.

Allen, is the son of Gaylene Narcisse, grandson of Gaynelle Narcisse, nephew of Fred Narcisse, Jonathan Narcisse, and Tonia Richardson all of Des Moines, Iowa. He and his Wife Sonata, live in Los Angeles, California.

Department Of Labor Releases More Than $450 Million Additional Funds For Trade Adjustment Assistance

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor today released more than $450 million in Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) funding to states to provide career training, and employment and case management services to workers who lose their jobs due to outsourcing and foreign trade.

“Workers around the nation continue to see their jobs disappear as a direct result of increased imports and competitive trade,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis (pictured). “The funding announced today will help more of these workers upgrade existing skills or retrain for new careers in industries that have the potential to grow in the coming months and years.”

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) includes a major expansion and reform of the TAA program to ensure that all U.S. workers negatively affected by trade have the skills, resources and support to gain new employment.

The Recovery Act authorized an increase in the maximum amount of TAA funds that may be used for training nationwide from $220 million to $575 million. Based on this training increase plus the funding authorized for case management services and administration, the Labor Department is now making a supplemental distribution of $655,500 to the states for fiscal year 2009. This increase will ensure that states have funds available to implement changes made to TAA through the Recovery Act and to serve an increasing number of trade-affected workers.

For more information on TAA and other Department of Labor employment and training programs, visit http://www.dol.gov.
Letter To The Editor:

I do not know who wrote the “Something To Think About. My opinion about Oprah Winfrey’s version of The Color Purple.” a month or so ago. But I agree. I did not like the movie. I think the Color Purple is degrading to Black People.

I responded, “It’s a movie. We don’t live our lives like that anymore than you. Thank you. I enjoy your paper.

Helena Robinson
Moorestown, N.J.

Making our voice relevant again

Making our voice relevant again

From the Pen of…. JB

(Iowa Bystander: It is still “relevant” today.)

Making our voice relevant again

(Iowa Bystander: It is still “relevant” today.)

Making our voice relevant again

Making our voice relevant again

Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online

Main Entry: Relevant

Pronunciation: re-le-vant

Function: adjective

Etymology: Medieval Latin relevant, relevantes from Latin, present participle of relevar to raise up — more at relieve

Date: 1560

1a: having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand

Iowans Closely Following Health Care Reform

Health care reform is a big priority for Congressman Braley, and he’s in a key position to influence the reform debate,” Braley’s Deputy Chief of Staff Mike Goodman said. “Our healthcare system is broken and needs to be fixed. That’s why Braley will be working to craft a reform plan that reduces costs preserves Americans’ choice of doctors and health plans, and ensures affordable, quality care for all.

Health care reforms have been a top priority for the Iowa Senate since Democrats took control in 2006. Many of the recommendations of a statewide commission have been made law. In 2009, the Legislature voted to bring health insurance to 30,000 Iowa children who are currently uninsured. The participants on today’s teleconference agreed that federal health reforms must include a public option in addition to other reforms.

“Healthcare reform is a big priority for Congressman Braley, and he’s in a key position to influence the reform debate,” Braley’s Deputy Chief of Staff Mike Goodman said. “Our healthcare system is broken and needs to be fixed. That’s why Braley will be working to craft a reform plan that reduces costs preserves Americans’ choice of doctors and health plans, and ensures affordable, quality care for all.

Iowans have already benefited from the creation of a state’s public option when it comes to children and very poor adults,” said Hatch. “I think if U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley listened to Iowans the way we did today, he just might change his mind and join us in supporting a public option to provide more choice and more competition.”

An mp3 audio recording of the entire conference call is available for download at www.IowaSenateNews.com/healthcareaudio.

Cancer Patients Turning To Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society’s Cancer Resource Network is currently serving a record number of cancer patients through the first eight months of fiscal year 2009. In Iowa, more than 650 additional cancer patients have contacted the Cancer Resource Network as compared to 2008, for an increase of over 26%. In addition, over 400 newly diagnosed cancer patients have reached out to the American Cancer Society for an increase of 30%, and an increase of over 39% of patients who are either uninsured or on Medicaid have contacted the American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Resource Network is the umbrella name for all of the programs, services and resources the Society offers to help patients, survivors and caregivers. The CRN umbrella is the “Get Well” portion of the “Stay Well, Get Well, Find Cures, Fight Back” core statement.

The resources available can help constituents manage their experience at every point in the cancer journey, from initial diagnosis through survivorship and beyond.

“These numbers demonstrate that more people are becoming aware of what our organization is really all about. Helping people is a huge part of our mission, along with our research, education, and advocacy work,” said Chuck Reed, American Cancer Society Public Relations Manager.

Cancer survivors, family members, friends and caregivers can all find helpful information, day-to-day help and emotional support through a simple call to 1.800.227.2345 or a quick visit to www.cancer.org.

The Cancer Resource Network can offer information to help understand the disease and make decisions about cancer care, including clinical trials information, treatment options, and access to a trained Information Specialist.

The Cancer Resource Network can offer day-to-day help with many aspects of your life, including answers to financial and insurance questions and help with transportation and lodging to ease the cancer burden.

The Cancer Resource Network can offer emotional support by connecting you with others who have experienced the cancer journey, whether through cancer education classes, support groups, or an online community.

“I simply phone call to a free number or visit to an easy-to-use website can make a big difference in someone’s journey with cancer,” said Reed.

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www.state.ia.us/government/crc
A History Of Juneteenth

Juneteenth is the celebration of the emancipation of African-Americans. There are two separate emancipation celebrations in the United States, one on April 16th and the other on June 19th.

What does the Emancipation Proclamation mean? In Webster’s Dictionary, emancipation means “to be free from oppression, bondage or restraint,” and a proclamation is “an official announcement.” To African-Americans, Juneteenth involves the celebration of many freedoms, freedom from ownership and being sold like cattle, freedom from unpaid labor, and freedom to be a human being.

African descendants brought to America and the Caribbean Islands were emancipated on different dates and observed a variety of celebrations. The history of the Emancipation Proclamation in America is twofold. The first part begins in Washington, D.C. which had more slaves in the 1800s than any place in the Union.

Surrounded by states that condoned slavery and supported by Union soldiers, the District of Columbia was a safe haven for many runaways. The wheels of freedom for slaves started turning back in December, 1861, when Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson introduced a bill to end slavery in the District of Columbia. Senator Wilson’s bill passed the Senate on April 3, 1862. President Lincoln signed the bill into law on April 16, 1862. This law freed the 3,100 slaves in Washington, D.C. but did not free the rest of the slaves in the United States.

In his election speech, President Lincoln promised not to get involved in the slavery issue, but pressure came from many cabinet members who urged the President to address the human suffering. Lincoln attempted to prevent additional states from seceding from the Union. The passage of Senator Wilson’s bill ending slavery in Washington, D.C. sent a signal that slavery was no longer tolerated a sentiment that was strengthened by Lincoln’s subsequent Emancipation Proclamation which was written as a warning to pro-slavery states and territories. In it, Lincoln let these states know that he would declare their slaves “free men” unless they returned to the Union by January 1, 1863.

News of the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached Texas two and a half years after it had been signed. Some stories claim that either Indians or slaveholders killed a courier sent to deliver the news to the fort in Galveston. As a result, no one heard about the proclamation until General Gordon Granger brought the news on June 19, 1865.

Some confusion accompanied the news. So many people’s lives had been controlled by others for so long they were uncertain what to do with their newfound freedom and remained where they were. Other slaves danced for joy and held a great celebration. Once the news sunk in, many were in a hurry to leave the plantations where they had been enslaved.

As former slaves migrated to other parts of the United States, they remembered and celebrated the day freedom arrived. The Emancipation Proclamation became shortened to “Juneteenth,” a date that celebrated the nineteenth of June when they were set free.

On March 23, 2000, Major Anthony Williams of the District of Columbia signed into law a bill introduced by Council member Vincent B. Orange, Sr. to make April 16th, the District of Columbia’s Emancipation Day, a private legal holiday.

The National Association of Juneteenth News of the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached Texas two and a half years after it had been signed. Some stories claim that either Indians or slaveholders killed a courier sent to deliver the news to the fort in Galveston. As a result, no one heard about the proclamation until General Gordon Granger brought the news on June 19, 1865.

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The National Association of Juneteenth

League was formed to help perpetuate the cultural awareness of our ancestors and promote community revitalization, health issues and education, and encourage heritage through workshops, presentations, and other events.

Double-digit Increase Propells DMACC

Summer Enrollment To New High

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) has set an all-time summer term record for both enrollment, up 10.58 percent, and the number of credit hours, up more than 13 percent over last year.

“DMACC is enrolling more students during the summer who are also increasing the number of classes they are taking,” said Rob Denson, president of DMACC. “It’s a formula for another record summer enrollment. With DMACC classes being so affordable, students can save a lot of money and move one step closer to graduation.”

The 9,302 students taking summer classes this year are also taking a record number of credit hours — 54,354, up 13.16 percent over last year.

The official enrollment figures will be released to the Iowa Department of Education this week.

While DMACC enrollment continues to climb, making the College one of the fastest growing two-year schools in the nation, Denson says the Board of Trustees and administration remain focused on keeping class sizes small and tuition rates low.

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A Little Bit Of This And A Little Bit Of That

Believe It Or Not

In 2009, there is one young African American female who proved there are still honest people in the world.

This young lady is a high school student. She works in a resale (used clothing) store. One of her duties was to hang up jackets and other merchandise. She was hanging a tan jacket when she felt paper in the pocket. She pulled the paper out and low and behold...it was $5,000.00 (dollars). Note, no markings, nothing just money. She turned it over to her supervisors. They began to track down their donation list to see if they could find the owner. Finally they did find the donor, only to discover he was deceased. But he did have family.

The reward to this honest young lady was $50.00 (dollars) plus $500.00 (dollars) to her school. Believe it or not!

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John Brown’s Legacy Hasn’t Changed; America Has

Within 48 hours, Brown’s rebellion was dead, along with at least four black people, a baggage handler who bled to death on the street while attending to his own wounded. Slowly, says historian Jean Libby of Palo Alto, Calif., historians began to see Brown as a man with a message.

“Once you get past the simplistic labels of ‘mad man’ or ‘terrorist,’ you begin to retell tales of the raid to agitate. Blacks feared being marginalized, or worse. And so John Brown was pushed aside, and the centennial began in 1961, with the anniversary if the Confederate firing on Fort Sumter,” says Gerry Guamer, spokesman for the Park Service in Washington, D.C.

“There are people in the Taliban who believe what they’re doing is right, he says. “But is there a better way?”

This month, the Park Service is offering two-mile walking tours that retrace Brown’s footsteps through the picturesque town at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. Descendants of raiders, soldiers and townspeople will gather in August, then return for the Oct. 16 anniversary to explain their ancestors’ roles.

Had his own been among the bodies in 1859, Brown might have remained a bit player in the larger drama of the war. But that was not his fate. On trial for treason, murder and inciting a rebellion, he refused to apologize and declared the fight for freedom sanctioned by God and the Bible.

Swiftly convicted and executed, he became a potent and enduring symbol - to the North, a heroic martyr willing to die for equality; to the South, a lunatic killer attacking a way of life. And so he remained for a century or more, a complicated man often dismissed with simplistic labels.

Later, people began to talk more openly about slavery and the roles that blacks and other racial and social groups had played in the nation’s defining conflict.

Slowly, says historian Jean Libby of Palo Alto, Calif., historians stopped dismissing Brown as a madman and began to put him in the context of his times, times - to the undying outrage of Brown and his wealthy supporters - courts ruled that black people were not entitled to the same protection under the laws as other races.

“Now slavery is portrayed differently,” she says, “and so is John Brown.”

Brown, a Connecticut native, had despised slavery since he was a boy and witnessed a slave being beaten. He spent months plotting to seize 100,000 weapons in what was then Virginia, retreat into the mountains and begin a guerrilla war with slaves who would join him, emboldened by his success.

“He was so ahead of his time,” says Alice Keesey Mecoy, who discovered she was Brown’s great-great-great granddaughter in 1976.

“Now slavery is portrayed differently,” she says, “and so is John Brown.”

John Brown: Continued on page 10

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Questioning TimeLife Products Return Policy

Have you ever been up late at night, watching something on TV and have had the opportunity to see one of those infomercials?<br>

“timeLife music...because they music that they advertise, sounds good, but you can no longer buy them in your local stores, right? Well, I am a victim of this late night draw and have ordered from them several times. Most recently in February 2009. Except this time, I didn’t particularly care for the collection once I had received it and according to time Life’s return policy, I returned the entire collection within 60 days. Additionally, when I returned the CD’s, in March, I had to pay to send them back, which included the cost for the return receipt.

In April I received a letter telling me that I was not entitled to a refund because I had returned the merchandise after 60 days. So I sent them another letter telling them about the confusion in their policy, but they would not change the return fee. Upon receiving this letter I contacted them, informing them that I had returned the CD’s. During this call I was informed that I would not receive the refund until I sent them confirmation that the CD’s had been returned. Okay...keep in mind that when I returned the CD’s in the first place, they were returned associated with a return receipt that their agent signed...before returning it to me. OKAY? So I faxed the confirmation to them, according to their request, providing them with the proof that I had returned the cd’s within the 60 day return policy time frame.

It is now June. Still no refund. Instead I receive a letter telling me that a refund check was sent to me on May 11, 2009. After reading this letter, I think, “I have had enough of this sh...mess and called them around 7:30 am. When a person finally got on the line, I told him what had happened. He told me I should receive my refund check in three to four weeks. I asked him, where are they located. He told me Des Moines, Iowa. Hmmmm, I think to myself. I am in Des Moines, Iowa too. So why does it take three to four weeks for a check from Des Moines, Iowa to reach someone in Des Moines, Iowa? I asked him to let me speak to a supervisor. The representaive informed me that a supervisor was not available and he didn’t know when one would be available! Is that the craziest bunch of sh...mess you have ever heard of? So eventually he tells me that a supervisor may get in around noon. I asked him what time did he start work. He tells me he gets in at 7:00 am. I ask him...so you are telling me that you work five hours without a supervisor. He tells me, YES.

I’ve had enough of this nonsense and just ask him to have a supervisor call me. He agrees but does not take down a contact number to use to call me back. So do you think a supervisor will be calling me? Not a chance!

Now the point of all this is to give you something to think about. I have used the internet, catalogue, and phone to place orders for years and have never had a problem like this! But, I will never place an order with TIME LIFE again. This experience has been a customer’s NIGHTMARE!!

Because of this experience, I strongly recommend that people who place orders over the internet, catalogue, or by phone be sure to keep all of your supporting documents. If you don’t, and you need to return it, prepare to be screwed over to spend more time to get a refund than what you paid for the item in the first place!

So what will I do?

For now, I will wait until June 17, which will be five weeks to see if I get the refund check. If I haven’t received it by then, I’m taking my case to small claims court, consumer protection. The Better Business Bureau and whomever else I can. You see, it’s not the refund that’s the issue at this point, but the principle. I work hard for my money and I do not intend to give it away to a company who supports a false return policy. In fact if I paid them like they are returning my money in the first place, they would have put a negative mark on my credit rating. So with that said, fair is fair. Always stand up for your rights, as a consumer. And when necessary, be prepared to take them to court.
Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

Enduring Hope

Scripture Reference: Psalm 42:5 (NKJV)

“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.”

Hope was freely given to us as believers when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior! Hope can at times get us through some troubling times. Hope gives us a focus and a confidence to endure many of the trials, tribulations, and struggles that we have encountered along our journey. When we are going through those troubling seasons, it is easy for us to focus on the problem… let it overtake our thoughts…mess up our day, month, week and sometimes years. But if we have hope, it can take our minds off of the problem and helps us focus on the problem solver. Hope helps us to understand that the problems we face on this journey will only last for a little while. So if we can tolerate just a little discomfort, there is a reward at the end of the journey. A reward that is far greater than anything this world could ever give us. That is why we as believers put our hope in the living Christ! He has seen us through tough times before, and He will do it again.

We may be in a storm, coming out of one, or been through a storm, but as believers, we trust and believe God, with a confidence and expectation that He will do just what He promised in His word.

New Normal: God is our source of hope, so be patient during those trying times and continue to have confident expectation in Him; for He is our Hope!

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship
“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

By Carolyn Clinton King C., Th.D

“An Open Door...” 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 because we are not living in the 6th Dispensation, the “Age of Grace”. (Grace, the unmerited favor of God, Ephesians 2:8) Let’s keep our eyes lifted to the hills from whence cometh our help, our help cometh from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth.

How about you? Did you take your temperature this week? How did you feel - hot, cold, lukewarm? Hopefully your fervor and energy are focused on doing the will of the Master; and you are feeding your Spiritual man with bible study and reading of the Word. What if you didn’t eat for a week, don’t you think your physical man would be starving? You would be low on energy, weak and dragging. So, continue adding value to your Spiritual diet so that you may be able to stand and to conquer all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (Don’t forget you Spiritual Armor Ephesians 6:10-18). And don’t forget our battle is not against one another brothers and sisters, this battle is the Lord’s. We can claim the victory Jesus secured when he died on the cross, and sisters, this battle is the Lord’s. We can claim the victory Jesus secured when he died on the cross, and you are feeding your Spiritual man with bible study and reading of the Word. What if you didn’t eat for a week, don’t you think your physical man would be starving?

“After these things: Revelation 2 and 3 spoke to all churches in the latter stages of the Church age as we approach the coming Rapture and Revelation. To be continued… the origin of the church and its mission… in light of Revelation.

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New Normal: God is our source of hope, so be patient during those trying times and continue to have confident expectation in Him; for He is our Hope!

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship
“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

Send the good news about your kids to:
iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

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.

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.

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— Reinhold Niebuhr

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Integrity Celebrates Her 13th Birthday

Integrity Narcisse celebrated her thirteenth (13) birthday with a few of her relatives and special friends. From 4 pm until 6 pm she invited her grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins family friends and six of her special classmates (all girls).

At 6:15 the adults left and the teens had their fun as they laughed, danced, giggled and whatever.

At 10 pm they went to the backyard where her Mother had prepared a large swimming pool of cool water. They splashed around until about 11 pm. When Dad showed up with lots of pizza. They ate pizza until they were full and then they crashed, with a slumber party.

That’s a fun way to celebrate being (13) thirteen, wouldn’t you say?  -Nelle-
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WATERLOO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS &
TYSON FRESH MEATS
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SUMMER HARMONY DAY 4
A celebration that brings communities together and helps build relationships

Friday, June 19, 2009
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Lincoln Park
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Waterloo, Iowa

Festivities include:

- Family Activities
- Games
- Entertainment
- Food and Refreshments
- Prize Drawing

This event is part of the Juneteenth Celebration

Please join in all the events of the Juneteenth Celebration

June 19 – 21, 2009

For more information, please contact:
Waterloo Commission on Human Rights – (319) 291-4441
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center – (319) 296-4440
SCLC Leader Promotes Jackson Poverty March

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - The interim president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is promoting a June 30 march in Jackson, Miss., he says will revive civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Poor People's Campaign.

The march to the Mississippi capitol will begin on Fortification Street in downtown Jackson at 1 p.m. Byron Clay told a group at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Norwood that the SCLC has a moral imperative to expose poverty, promote safe and decent housing and a working wage.

King was the co-founder of SCLC in 1957.

Democrats Express Outrage Over Racist Obama E-mail

WASHINGTON (AP) - A leading civil rights coalition says there has been an increase in white supremacist activity since the election of the first African-American president.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund reported Tuesday that the economic downturn and fear of immigrants also contributed to the increase.

The report comes a week after a white supremacist killed a security guard at the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

The coalition reported the U.S. now averages a hate crime nearly every hour of every day. A special concern is the rising number of hate crimes committed against Hispanics and gays.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Joining With Fraternities

ATLANTA (AP) - Three of the country's largest black fraternities are joining forces with Big Brothers Big Sisters to help woo black men into the mentoring program.

Big Brothers Big Sisters President and CEO Judy Vordenburgh says the nonprofit has struggled to attract minorities to pair with a growing list of black youths from mostly single-parent homes who are signing up in droves. The fraternities will urge their 250,000 active members to become mentors, as well as hold recruitment drives for Big Brothers Big Sisters at everything from college campuses to barber shops.

Spokeswoman Kelly Williams says Big Brothers Big Sisters has a list of about 8,500 black boys who are waiting for mentors, which represents 40 percent of the boys waiting to be matched.

Connecticut Apologizes For Legacy Of Slavery

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - Connecticut became the second northern state to apologize for slavery, segregation and other racist policies its lawmakers once condoned after an unanimous vote by the state Senate.

The resolution expresses "profound contrition" for the General Assembly's role in perpetuating slavery and other practices. The House approved last week.

New Jersey last year became the first northern state to apologize for slavery. Five other states - Alabama, Florida, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia - have approved similar measures.

Slavery was practiced in Connecticut in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries before it was abolished in 1848. About 5,100 slaves - or about 3 percent of the population - lived in the Connecticut colony in the mid-1770s.

"I believe the brand of slavery still exists throughout the African-American community to this day, so I believe an apology and a recognition of the impact of slavery ... is something that will go a long way in making things different," said Democratic state Sen. Toni Harp, a black legislator from New Haven.

The resolution includes a provision to emphasize the apology is not meant to provide grounds for reparation claims, lawsuits or other legal actions.

Connecticut was an early leader in the mid-1800s abolition movement, but only after nearly three centuries of allowing and profiting from slavery within its own borders.

Connecticut legislators rejected emancipation bills in 1777, 1779 and 1780, and its new state constitution in 1818 specifically denied blacks the right to vote.

For Your Information

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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

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All photos should clearly identify those in the picture, their order and the relevance of the photo.

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

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Burns United Methodist Church News

On Sunday May 31, 2009, Burns’ Pastor Reverend Willy Mafuta introduced a special type of worship service, which will be continued every second Sunday, of each month. The Service is called “GLOCAL Worship Service. It is a new style of praising God from a “GLObal” and “LoCAL” … GLOCAL perspective. A new style of preaching. A new Style of Liturgy.

As part of our first GLOCAL service, the scriptures were read in three languages; Spanish by Ms. Margo Kromminga, French, by our own Pastor, Rev Willy Mafuta, and English by our worship leader, Mr. Jerome Marshall. During this service, Sister Rumbi, gave a heart rendering testimony on how God led her path from her country of origin, Zimbabwe and how she is resettling as a refugee living in the United States.

We invite you to join us on the second Sunday of each month and be spiritually refreshed, through our GLOCAL Worship Service.

July Upcoming Events:
Classic Auto Show
United Methodist Women’s Day – Crowning of Glory Celebration

Iowa Bystander Church Directory
...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. 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.
Free Medical Clinic: 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 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: Prayer and 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. Marlin T. Perkins, Sr.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:00 a.m., Praise 940 AM

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Address: E.Univ. & McCormick • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 262-1785
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:40 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 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!
Memphis Mayor Announces Candidacy For Congress

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Memphis mayor Willie Herenton says he’s running for Congress. Herenton’s office confirmed Thursday that he has filed the necessary papers with Memphis City Hall and that he will be a candidate next year for the 9th District House seat from Memphis.

Herenton, 69, is in his fifth term in office and is the longest serving mayor in Memphis history. He said in April that he was considering challenging incumbent Rep. Steve Cohen in the Democratic primary.

The Federal Election Commission requires can-
didates to register once they have raised or spent more than $5,000 on a congressional campaign.

Herenton, a former superintendent of schools, is the city’s first elected black mayor. He defeated a popular white incumbent in the closest mayor’s race in Memphis history in 1991 and since then, has had little serious trouble winning re-election.

Memphis is majority black and Cohen is the city’s first white member of Congress in more than three decades.

Former Rep. Harold Ford Sr. represented the 9th District for 22 years and was followed by Harold Ford Jr., who held the seat for 10 years before resigning to run for the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Cedar Rapids Rips To Celebrate Juneteenth

Join us for the Juneteenth Taste of Freedom Din-

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in America. After the Civil War ended, word of the Emancipation Proclamation fi-

nally reached Galveston, Texas. On June 19, 1865, some of the last slaves in America were freed. Since then the celebration has spread to all the cities in the United States. It is now an official observance in Iowa that is celebrated every year.

June 19, 2009

Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Be a part of a sparkling evening of patriotism and soul food as we honor African American military and veterans, during the Taste of Freedom Dinner. Sponsored by Media-Com and the National Guard of Iowa, the dinner is from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. Veterans and military are free – guest pays full price. Tickets for adults are $10.00. Children under 12 are $5.00. All are welcome.

Then put your dancing shoes on! Enjoy the NEWK’OICisk dance parties as you spin your favorite tunes from the 70’s to today. The Light up the Night with Freedom Dance follows the dinner at 8:30PM. Tickets for the dance are $10.00. Combined tickets for both the dinner and the dance are $15.00. For more information on both events please visit the Nikee Gift Shop at the African American Museum of

Iowa or go online to www.blackiowa.org. You may also call 319-862-2101.

June 20, 2009

Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Join us at Viola Gibson Park for the Family Fun Juneteenth Celebration Day from 9:00A to 5:00PM. Hosted by the African American Museum of Iowa and the University of Iowa African American Council, Gibson Park is located at 12th Avenue and 10th Street SE in Cedar Rapids. The Celebration of Freedom Day will offer an exciting variety of events for all ages.

Come and enjoy the ethnic arts and crafts exhibits, jazz, blues and hip-hop music, soul food, dramatic entertainment, speeches, tours of the Museum and an assortment of informational vendors that will be available. The NEWK’OICisk radio station will broad-
cast live. Prizes will be given away throughout the day and children’s games and educational work-
shop will be offered. The cost for the Celebration of Freedom Day is free, so bring the whole family!

Additional sponsors for the Juneteenth events are Media-Com, The National Guard of Iowa, The Uni-

versity of Iowa, the NEWK’OICisk radio station, NAAACP of Cedar Rapids, Civil Rights Commission of Cedar Rapids, Jane Boyd Community House, ASAC, The Civil Rights Commission of Iowa City, and City Style.

For more details please call the Museum’s Nikee gift shop at 319-862-2101 or go online to use PayPal at www.blackiowa.org or e-mail: jmitchell@blackiowa.org.
My First Car

At the tender age of 15, my folks presented me with my first car, a 1949 Ford, flat head V8, 3 speed transmission. Glory be the world was a bright and wonderful place, lets ride.

One of my passions was, and still is, drag racing. To me, the best car was the fastest car.

The Chevrolet had a 6 cylinder engine for all the years up until 1955, the Ford V8 would almost always out-drag the 6 cylinder Chevy. In 1955 General Motors produced a Chevrolet that was really an eye catcher. That was also very fast. It had a 265 cubic inch engine that would go like the wind.

This little V8 was based on the Cadillac 390 cubic inch engine, so it had a rich heritage. This little engine would run a long time without problems. Most people felt that GM cars were among the best you could buy. From day 1 the Cadillac had been top shelf, people would use the name to bespeak high quality of many different products, such as the Cadillac of vacuum cleaners or the Cadillac of blenders, etc. Sometimes when you have been on top, you forget what it took to get you there. Now, I have been an auto mechanic for 50 years or so, and I know bad workmanship when I see it. The problems started when people found that they had Chevy engines in their Oldsmobiles, Buicks and Pontiacs, not that there is anything wrong with a Chevy engine, but if you buy a Buick, Olds or Pontiac, that’s the engine you expect to get in the car of your choice. People were very unhappy about this engine thing and unhappy people buy elsewhere.

Around 1980 or 81 the Cadillac division came up with the infamous 4.1 liter engine, words cannot describe how bad this engine was. Then came the 4.5 and after that a 4.9 liter, all of these were very troublesome. The Northstar was not a whole lot better. People would say, and I quote, “I will never own another Cadillac.”

People don’t buy cars from you because they like you, they buy because they hope to get a quality product and if they don’t get that, they will not come back. If you loose enough customers, bankruptcy is on the menu. Remember guys, whatever it takes to get you on top is what it will take to keep you there, this stuff is elementary.

Anybody that has been in business for over 100 years should be painfully aware of this. Greed and stupidity seem to be the order of the day, shape up or ship out you people.

RI Parkey, Sr.

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Beyonce, West To Be Among Performers At BET Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Beyonce will perform at the Black Entertainment TV Awards. Show organizers say the pop star will attend the ceremony, as will her husband, Jay-Z.

The two join a performance lineup that includes Kanye West, Maxwell, Young Jeezy, Ne-Yo and Soulja Boy. Beyonce is nominated for a leading five BET Awards, including favorite R&B female and video of the year. Rapper T.I. also has five nods, followed by Lil Wayne, T-Pain and Keri Hilson, who are tied with four nominations each.

Jamie Foxx will host the show, to be broadcast live June 28 from the Shrine Auditorium.
Michelle Obama gets fashion honor at NYC ceremony

NEW YORK (AP) - First lady Michelle Obama has been honored for her contributions to fashion at the industry’s annual awards ceremony in New York City.

The Council of Fashion Designers of America handed out its awards to the top talent in the industry Monday night at a ceremony at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Council president Diane von Furstenberg noted Obama’s “meteoric rise as a fashion icon.” She says Obama has “a unique look that balances the duality of her lives” in her roles as trusted adviser to her husband and busy mother to their two daughters.

Obama wore a white button-down shirt and two strands of pearls as she accepted her award via a video speech.

Among the other honorees are Rodarte for womenswear, Alexander Wang as an emerging talent in womenswear and Anna Sui for lifetime achievements.

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