Texas Company Ordered To Pay $3m To Black Workers

DALLAS (AP) - U.S. District Judge Ron Clark said Lufkin Industries Inc. must pay the workers $3.1 million as well as 5 percent interest to compensate them for acts of discrimination dating to 1994.
A bench trial in 2005 found that the company unlawfully made initial assignment and promotion decisions that discriminated against black workers. The ruling was made by U.S. District Judge Howell Cobb, who died later that year.
"Lufkin Industries has been profiting for years from its policy of unlawful discrimination," wrote Clark, who succeeded Cobb on the bench in the Eastern District of Texas.
"At the same time, as Judge Cobb found, Lufkin’s CEO was indulged with a corporate jet and pilot and in 2002 a paycheck three times that of the president of the United States."

First Lady Michelle Obama Announces Release Of Millions For Iowa Health

First Lady Michelle Obama announced the release of $8,074,050 in grants to community health centers in Iowa. The grants will help address immediate and pressing health center facility and equipment needs and increase access to health care for millions in Iowa. The money was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and comes as more Americans join the ranks of the uninsured due to the economic downturn and skyrocketing health costs.
"Community Health Centers provide care to the Americans who need it most and their work has never been more important," said Obama. "These grants will help centers in Iowa serve more Americans who simply can't afford insurance coverage anymore."
The Recovery Act Capital Improvement Program (CIP) grants will support the construction, repair and renovation of over 1,500 health center sites nationwide. More than 650 centers will use the funds to purchase new equipment or health information technology (HIT) systems, and nearly 400 health centers will adopt and expand the use of electronic health records.
To see a list of Recovery Act CIP grantees in Iowa, go to http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=HRSA_CIP.
Health centers deliver preventive and primary care services at more than 7,500 service delivery sites around the country to patients regardless of their ability to pay; charges for services are set according to income. Health centers serve more than 17 million patients, about 40 percent of whom have no health insurance.
Community Health Centers are the responsibility of the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
The Capitation Improvement grant awards are the third set of health center grants provided through the Recovery Act. On March 2, President Obama announced grants worth $155 million to establish 126 new health center sites. Those grants will provide access to essential preventive and primary health care for more than 550,000 people in 39 states and two territories.
On March 27, HHS also awarded $338 Million in Increased Demand for Services grants for health centers. Health centers are using these grants to provide care to more than 2 million additional patients over the next two years, including approximately 1 million uninsured people.

Supreme Court: White Firefighters Bias Victims
Lone Black Justice Thomas Cast Pivotal Vote

WASHINGTON (AP) - Only white firefighters scored well enough on the test to be promoted. No blacks. So New Haven, Conn., threw out the test.

In an important reverse discrimination ruling Monday, the Supreme Court rejected that decision, cautioning employers nationwide against changing the rules once the game has begun.
New Haven discriminated against its white firefighters by ignoring the results of a promotion exam on which they did well but no African-Americans scored high enough to be promoted to lieutenant or captain, the justices said in a 5-4 ruling.
High court nominee Sonia Sotomayor had endorsed the city's position as an appeals court judge - ammunition for both supporters and foes in her upcoming confirmation hearing.
In its last session until September, the court’s conservative majority prevailed in the ruling that faulted New Haven and the courts that had upheld the city’s decision to discard the test results. The city said it acted to avoid being sued by the minority firefighters.
Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his majority opinion that New Haven’s action amounted to discrimination based on race against the white firefighters who were likely to be promoted.
"No individual should face workplace discrimination based on race," Kennedy said.

The ruling restricts, but does not eliminate employers' ability to take diversity into account in employment decisions. But the ruling could make it harder for minorities to prove discrimination based solely on lopsided racial hiring or promotions.
Sotomayor and two appeals court colleagues had ruled the city did the right thing in throwing out the test, and the Supreme Court reversal gave critics fresh ammunition two weeks before her Senate confirmation hearing. Conservatives said it showed her to be a judicial activist who lets her own feelings color her decisions. "This case will only raise more questions in the minds of the American people concerning Judge Sotomayor’s commitment to treat each individual fairly and not as a member of a group," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.
On the other hand, the Obama administration and liberal allies said her stance in the case demonstrated her restraint and unwillingness to go beyond precedents established by her own 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York.
The high court ruling says "she doesn't legislate from the bench," said presidential spokesman Robert Gibbs. "The Supreme Court clearly had a new interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act."
Coincidentally, the justices may have given a boost to calls for quick action on her nomination. The court said it would return Sept. 9 to hear a second round of arguments in a campaign finance case, and with Justice David Souter retiring there would be only eight justices unless Sotomayor has been confirmed by then.

In Monday’s ruling, Kennedy said, "Fear of litigation alone cannot justify an employer’s reliance on race to the detriment of individuals who passed the examinations and qualified for promotion."

Supreme Court: Continued on page 10

“The Out-Of-Towners” Featuring Julie Johnson Staples

Former Warburg Pincus managing director Julie Johnson Staples has set up a marketing communications shop in New York, targeting financial services, energy, healthcare, consumer and high-tech clients. Julie Johnson Staples, is a native Iowan, Roosevelt High School graduate (class of 1974), and is the daughter of Mr. Marion and Mrs. Corliss Johnson Staples, is a native Iowan, Roosevelt High School graduate (class of 1974), and is the daughter of Mr. Marion and Mrs. Corliss Williams of Des Moines, Iowa.
As W.P. Johnson Staples was responsible for global marketing, strategic communications and brand building initiatives. Her shop, J. Johnson Staples & Co., counsels clients in the areas of private equity investments, IPOs, profile building and rebranding.
Before joining W.P. Staples was director of H&K’s U.S. media practice and worked as a journalist for ABC News, Time, New York Times and Baltimore Sun. She covered the White House, Justice Dept. and Supreme Court.
In June, Julie Staples launched J. Johnson Staples & Co., a consultancy company providing specialized strategic communications services. Staples was most recently a partner and managing director at Warburg Pincus LLC.
Don’t Just Blame The Obvious:

By now we all have heard that the West side boxing club is scheduled to close. We’ve heard of the missing money—allegedly—but the blame can’t just be afforded to the obvious suspect.

Six (6) weeks ago I called Shannon Cofield to ask about the then rumor of the boxing clubs closing. I did not get through to her but I did leave a message explaining why I called. I left my phone number for a quick response from her. Now we can turn a blind eye to the truth but that is not good enough in these trying times with so many scandals’ and cover-ups. We have to call all involved to task and demand better.

Starting with the funding source for the boxing club, down to the fiscal agent agency that has the cloud of suspicion over its doorway like the onset of the plague. We need to be just as tough on the head of the United Way as we have been on any of the other organizations that have operated outside of our interest.

The fact is someone at the United Way had knowledge of the misappropriation of funds marked for the West side boxing club. Fact is I knew about this over a month ago and I called and asked Rep. Ford for his comments. I called Todd Dykstra of the Des Moines police department, and I talked to concerned community members, and I was told by Dykstra that the boxing club would not be closed even after a flyer had been distributed to the contrary. Rep. Ford gave me a call back and told me to call another police official, and Mrs. Cofield never called.

What does all of this mean? Well it could mean that because of people’s arrogance they think our community can continue to be mined like a South African diamond mine with no real services or support going into the community—can you say urban mining— the continued pimping of our community has to stop NOW…

What can we do? First we must demand far better from the United Way most of us have given, or give to the campaign now, without any demand for accountability to our community and that has to end. Two, the county or city should put dollars into this long time staple of the community. Finally we should hold a question and answer forum with the heads of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, DMACC, and the Greater Des Moines Foundation. City leadership, and Polk County Supervisors, to get to the bottom line of what we need and why we see we are not on any of their radars—at least not for the betterment of the community—allledgedly.

One more point that we must not let happen is, if the suspicions are found to be true, we can’t allow the powers at large to cover it up with the same cloak of corruption. For instance CIETC was a non-profit quasi-government agency, but other non-profits fell under the same microscope and they did not receive near the funding, and the agency was headed by a white woman. So if the agency in question being run by a black man has to answer the charge, other black run or managed agencies should not be held as if we are all the same. Don’t even try it!!!!!

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

Holiday Travel Tips

AAA predicts 37.1 million Americans will travel more than 50 miles from home during Fourth of July weekend.

Long road trips can eat into a summer travel budget, but consumer ratings company, Angie’s List, did some research with auto experts nationwide to find 5 tips for increasing your gas mileage.

• Regular engine tune-ups: Have your mechanic do a regular checkup two weeks before your road trip. Annual, biannual and mileage-based preventative maintenance is intended to give technicians the chance to uncover any problems in the early stages.

• Monitor tire inflation and mileage: Regularly monitor your tire’s air pressure. It’s like pedaling your bike with a flat tire – you have to work harder and so does your car. Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure can increase your gas mileage up to three percent. Look on the driver’s side door jamb or in your owner’s manual for your vehicles recommended tire pressure.

• Save the limbo for the beach: Don’t get below one-eighth of a tank of gas. Your fuel pump is located there and the bottom of the gas tank collects sediment from gasoline. When you run your car on low fuel, the pump can pick up the sediment and become damaged from it, which results in low fuel-efficiency.

• Slow down: Speeding and rapid acceleration/decelerating can decrease your gas mileage – it’s bad for your transmission too. Avoid driving while you’re on the phone, not only is it unsafe, but it takes your attention away from how you are accelerating and decelerating.

• Sleep all day, drive all night: Consider driving to your summer destination during non-peak hours. Nearly half the energy needed to power your vehicle goes in acceleration. Unnecessary braking wastes that energy.

POLICE OFFICER POSITION

Civil Service testing for the position of Police Officer for the Ottumwa Police Department will be held on July 30, 2009. Testing includes POST, physical fitness, psychological and oral interview. Final selection includes background check, polygraph and pre-employment physical including drug testing. Starting pay is $41,392 with excellent benefits. Sign-on bonus of $4,000.00 for applicants with Iowa police officer certification. Obtain and file applications with the City Clerk’s Office, 105 E. Third St., Ottumwa, IA 52501 (641) 683-0621; by email at opd@ci.ottumwa.ia.us; or, visit our website at www.cityofottumwa.org/Police.

Application Closing Date is 4:30pm July 17, 2009.

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
Latham Introduces Health Care Reform Legislation

Iowa Congressman Tom Latham has introduced legislation that would eliminate disparities in health care access for rural citizens and make quality health care more convenient and affordable for small business owners and their employees, seniors, veterans and members of the National Guard.

The “Health Care Security for All Americans Act of 2009” seeks to enhance health care access for a wide range of Americans under new policies with broad bipartisan support as a starting point for health care reform. The legislation also would update physician payment practices to provide a more equitable system for doctors in rural states.

“Health care has reached a point of crisis in this country,” Congressman Latham said. “Some in Washington have proposed a government takeover of health care that would cost taxpayers billions of dollars and separate patients from their doctors. My legislation proves that we can expand access to health care through commonsense reforms without breaking the federal budget.”

The bill, HR 3067, addresses the difficulty of accessing health care in rural Iowa, especially for seniors, by changing Medicare policies to level the playing field for rural hospitals and physicians. The bill also makes needed adjustments to expand medical options for veterans and to strengthen the ability of small business owners to negotiate for more affordable health insurance options for employees.

The Health Care Security for All Americans Act includes the following provisions:

• Sets a permanent floor for Medicare payments to eliminate the geographic disparity for doctors in Iowa and other rural states.
• Increases payments to rural hospitals.
• Provides coverage for annual Medicare preventative physicals for seniors. Current policy covers only the initial physical within the first six months of enrolling in Medicare.
• Allows small businesses to pool together across state lines to negotiate for more affordable health insurance benefits with private providers, a provision that would allow the federal government to save $1.4 billion in Medicaid payments to employees who would be able to afford private coverage under Latham’s proposal.
• Allows all individuals to fully deduct the cost of their health insurance premiums from their taxes, regardless of whether coverage is through an employer.
• Allows self-employed individuals to deduct health insurance costs in computing the tax on self-employment income.
• Allows full access to TRICARE dental and medical coverage for Guard and Reserve members for up to a full year before deployment. Current law allows coverage beginning 90 days before a deployment.
• Allows small businesses to pool together across state lines to negotiate for more affordable health insurance benefits with private providers, a provision that would allow the federal government to save $1.4 billion in Medicaid payments to employees who would be able to afford private coverage under Latham’s proposal.

Another provision introduced as stand-alone legislation would grant veterans the choice of using their VA health care benefits at local hospitals and medical facilities rather than having to travel to the nearest VA facility, which is often an entire day’s journey in rural areas.

“Every American has a right to affordable, timely and high-quality health care,” Congressman Latham said. “That includes the elderly, our veterans and soldiers, our small business owners and employees and our rural citizens. For too long, they have struggled with inadequate access and coverage, and it’s time to fix that. My legislation contains a number of commonsense proposals that Congress can enact immediately to expand health care accessibility and bring down costs. This is the approach to health care that the American people are demanding.”

“He have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”

Mary McLeod Bethune
New School vs. Old School

Review Of Coldplay Concert

“Coldplay,” today’s version of a British music explosion, is an alternative rock band, performed at Wells Fargo Arena on June 12, 2009, to a sold out audience. The opening bands were Howling Bells, an Indie Rock Band, formed in Sydney, Australia, followed by Snow Patrol, an alternative rock band that also falls into power pop and indie rock genres. Combined, these three bands have a diverse fan base. Before we get started with our reviews, just in case you are not familiar with “Coldplay,” allow us to introduce them to you.

Per “Coldplay – Wikipedia” internet website, “Coldplay” formed in London, England in 1996. The members of the group are Chris Martin (lead vocals, keyboards & guitar), Jonny Buckland (lead guitar), Guy Berryman (bass guitar), and Will Champion (drums, backing vocals, & other instruments). Coldplay achieved worldwide fame with the release of their single “Yellow,” followed by their debut album, Parachutes (2000), which was nominated for the Mercury Prize. Its follow-up, A Rush of Blood to the Head (2002), won multiple awards such as NME’s Album of the Year. Their next release, X & Y (2005), received a slightly less enthusiastic yet still generally positive reception. The band’s fourth studio album, Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends (2008), was produced by Brian Eno and released again to largely favourable reviews, earning Grammy nominations and wins. Coldplay have sold 50 million albums.

New School Review: Being a fan of the song Viva la Vida I was excited to hear that Coldplay was coming to town. The opening act by “Howling Bells” I thought was very good though there was not much excitement. Only when Snow Patrol came on was there really some excitement. When they performed Chasing Cars all the people in the arena stood to “practice” for what was to come next, Coldplay. After waiting for what seemed like forever the lights dimmed and the crowd went wild, especially when Coldplay performed Clocks. Personally my favorite part was when the butterflies came shooting out of the ceiling. It was magical. I give this concert 5 stars. It will be a night that no one who was there will ever forget.

Old School Review: I am unfamiliar with today’s alternative rock band, power pop or indie rock genres. In fact, the first time I heard of these groups was June 11, 2009. The entire concert lasted about 4 hours. The initial opening act, “Howling Bells,” whose lead singer is Juanita Stein. At the time of their performance, the arena was about half full, which made me wonder about the popularity of “Coldplay.” Howling Bells’, a relatively new band, (an Indie Rock Band, formed in Sydney, Australia), performed acceptable. A style of music that I was unfamiliar with but able to listen to. However, I doubt that I will ever purchase one of their cds. Most of the time, it was hard for me to understand the lyrics, though the music was okay. It reminded me of the hard bargin type of music back in the 80’s. Even though our seats were on the mainfloor, I was unable to get a really good look at them and wondered why with 3 jumbo trons, the image of this band was not projected on to them. Maybe stage presence appeared to be okay, nothing much to get excited about even though Juanita did her best to get the audience involved. The lack of audience enthusiasm was emphasized by the lack of applause as Howling Bells left the stage at the end of their performance. Looking around, after they exited the stage, I noticed that more people had and were arriving during the 15 – 20 minute intermission, required to prepare the stage for the next performance, Snow Patrol.

When Snow Patrol took the stage, the audience was more enthusing. Formed in 1994, Snow Patrol, an alternative rock, power pop, and Indie rock band has sold over 7 million albums. With a much improved stage presence and lighting, even without the jumbo trons, I was able to see the band clearly. They were energetic, vocals were much clearer and the crowd warmed up to them in the way that I expected to be the objective of an opening act. Snow Patrol performed for about 45 minutes concluding with a standing and excited audience. When the lights went up, I noticed that the arena was packed from bottom to top. From what I could tell, there wasn’t an empty seat in the house.

After an intermission of about 30 minutes, “Coldplay,” lead vocalist Chris Martin (also a BIG Obama supporter) began their performance. And what a performance it was! I can’t think of words that will do the performance justice. It was fantastic! I was especially impressed with the special effects displayed on the jumbo trons. Some of the images were displayed in black and white, others had hints of animation. While all the time we saw them in living color! Wow! The light show was awesome! The show in it’s entirety was pure perfection! It was great! During one song they released giant yellow beach ball type balloons that the audience enthusiastically hit around for a while. Several songs followed. Then they exited the
Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

Created For His Glory

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

“God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

God, our creator, created us in His image and for His glory and purpose. In the beginning when God spoke, the spirit moved and everything began to take shape. God continued to speak, and He made man and woman. With His creative power, He put in us His characteristics and attributes so that we could show the world what a loving, kind and forgiving God He is.

Because we are created for His glory, we must live a life that is reflective of Him and His wonderful attributes. No, we are not perfect… but we can show the world why He loves us so much and why we love Him so much. We love Him because of His faithfulness towards His children. For when we fall, He is there to pick us up! We can help the world see and understand that while we are in the midst of a storm, we can have God’s peace. His children don’t have to fall apart in the midst of chaos. The world can also see through us that He can turn a mess into a miracle. God’s characteristics allow us to experience the world from His perspective, not ours! That even sometimes when the world doesn’t love you, we still have the love of Christ on the inside of us to love it back to life…one person at a time.

New Normal: Because we are created in God’s image we are valued by Him. God created, and if we truly belong to Him… let His image and likeness show forth! In turn… it brings Him Glory!

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

“More” 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 hope this weekly menu will invigorate you to enhance your Spiritual Diet with time spent feeding your spiritual man with the Word of God. Jeremiah 15:16: “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”

We were writing about what the Church is last time, we wrote about believing beings being the body of Christ; and we want to remind you the church is to be the “Bride of Christ”. At present the Church is a virgin espoused – 3 Cor. 11:2. In Christ’s day an espousal was as sacred as a marriage. The First Adam had his Bride, and the Second or Last Adam must have His Bride. In Gen. 2:18, 21-24, we are told how the First Adam got his Bride: “And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God gave to Adam a deep sleep; and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof. And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

Dr. Larkin says “Now Jesus during His life on the earth as a man, abode alone, but a deep sleep – the sleep of death – fell on Him, and out of His wounded side, as the result of the Atonement He made on the Cross, there came that from which the Church was formed, and to which the Holy Spirit gave life on the Day of Pentecost.”

Don’t forget there are “Two Brides” mentioned in the Scriptures. One in the Old Testament, and the other in the New Testament. The one in the Old Testament is Israel, the Bride of Jehovah; the one in the New Testament is the Church, the Bride of Christ.

Of Isa. 54:5-8. As to the Church being both the “Body” and “Bride” of Christ, we have the type of Eve who was of the “body” of Adam before she was his “bride”. Well back to a brief look at Revelation next time, I know Kingsway Christian College & Theological Seminary has a class coming up this fall about the Book of Revelation; you can call (515) 288-2852, for more information. Having finished my studies and received a doctorate of pastoral theology, I’m Blessed to be a professor and scheduled to teach a class this fall, so there are quite a few very good options and you can receive credit towards your Associate, Bachelor, Master or Doctorate Degree.

Well, how about you today, are you hot or cold for the Lord? Have you opened that door? Or have you allowed the glare and glitter of this world to dim your eyesight? Psa 121:1-2 “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help, My help [cometh] from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.” Keep your focus, don’t get caught up in what the media feeds you, or the advertisements promising you a better life, better shapes, better looks, better sex, better ways and bigger means, and remember our Lord cautions us in I Pet 2:11, “Dearly beloved, I beseech [you] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul,” so whatever you do, continue to look up, feed your spiritual man and take care of your physical body, i.e., you need rest, the proper diet, exercise and time to share with others, and learn to age gracefully and stay strong in the Lord by the reading of His word.

Email comments to carolynking7@yahoo.com

Family life is too intimate to be preserved by the spirit of justice. It can be sustained by a spirit of love which goes beyond justice.

-- Reinhold Niebuhr

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.
Young Scholar Needs Community Support!

My name is Jeremy Jamison, I live in Des Moines Iowa, and I go to Meredith Middle School. I have worked hard to keep my grades above a B average; I am an Honor Roll student; I am a member of the Meredith 6th grade Orchestra and will be auditioning for the Meredith Chamber Orchestra; I am a member of the Meredith Bible Club; I am a participant in the Gifted and Talented Program; and I will be attending Prep Academy this fall.

Recently my family received a letter stating that I had been selected to represent Meredith Middle School and the State of Iowa at the Junior National Young Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.

During this conference I will have an opportunity to meet and learn from some of today's leaders. I will also have the opportunity to meet and work with from students from all over our nation. The conference includes a six day tour of many museums and monuments that our capital has to offer. We will visit the National Museum of American History, The Lincoln Memorial and other historical sites.

I hope that by attending this conference that I might learn skills that will later in life help me to pursue my dreams of becoming a lawyer.

This trip will cost approximately $3,561.00 which is a quite a sum of money for many American families today. Imagine having the opportunity to go to Washington D.C., our nation’s capital and not be able to attend because you are being raised in a single parent family who needs the money for other bills.

My participation in the Junior National Young Leadership Conference will cost approximately $1,890.00.

My plane ticket will cost approximately $671.00, roundtrip since I am a minor and cannot travel alone.

I will need approximately $500.00 for luggage and clothes since there is a dress code that all students must follow.

I will also need approximately $300.00 spending money for phone calls, souvenirs, and food.

In all I will need approximately $3561.00. So far my family and I have earned $450.00 through Fund Raising, and Garage sales, that will cover the down payment for the conference I still need to raise $3111.00.

My mother and I have been going door to door selling Avon products in hopes of raising the funds needed for my trip. I hope that the people of Des Moines will open their hearts and will help send me to Washington D.C.

This is an important opportunity only being offered to the nation’s most outstanding 6th and 7th grade students and I feel honored to have been selected to represent Meredith Middle School and the State of Iowa.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Jeremy Jamison
515-283-0081

Central Academy Teacher Selected For Summer Study Tour To China

"Canada Snyder, a teacher at Des Moines Public Schools Central Academy, will visit China this summer as part of a 20-day study tour to the country. Snyder, an honors world civilizations/humanities and advanced placement U.S. history teacher, will join 17 educators from across the nation in the study program conducted by the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The group will travel to the cities of Beijing, Xi’an, Guilong, Lijiang and Shanghai June 25 through July 16 to focus on understanding China as it celebrates the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Teachers will tour historical sites, visit with local teachers, students and academic specialists, and participate in daily briefings.

Snyder was selected to go to China based on her previous study of country through the NCTA and a commitment to enhancing instruction about China in her school. Snyder attended a two-day orientation workshop in April in Boulder, Colo. In the fall, she will also participate in a two-day follow-up workshop to share her experience with students, other teachers, and the community throughout the coming academic year.

"I am honored to be chosen as a member of the study tour program to China," Snyder said. "I’m excited to bring back the things I learn on this trip that will enrich the district’s classroom instruction on China."

The 2009 NCTA Summer Study Tour in China is made possible through a grant from the Freeman Foundation, which has dedicated its efforts to improving the quality of teaching about Asia in the nation’s schools, with support from the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia at the University of Colorado. The Des Moines Independent Community School District is Iowa’s largest provider of public education serving the individual needs of more than 33,000 students in 66 schools with more than 5,000 dedicated teachers and staff. For more information about Des Moines Public Schools visit www.dmps.k12.ia.us.

KSU May Open Boarding School For Black Males

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) - Kentucky State University President Mary Sias says the school is trying to find funding to open a boarding school for black males.

Sias told The State Journal of Frankfort that the proposal is part of an initiative to increase the number of black men who earn college diplomas. She says high school students would live in campus dorms, have their own teachers and an on-site principal at the historically black college in Frankfort.

The pilot program could start in the fall of 2010 if KSU receives enough federal and grant funding. Sias says there would be room for 30 to 50 high school students to participate.
The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies In Congress • July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and

The signers of the Declaration represented the new states as follows:

New Hampshire
Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts
John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island
Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

Connecticut
Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

New York
William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

New Jersey
Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania
Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware
Cesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

Maryland
Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia
George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton

North Carolina
William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

South Carolina
Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton

Georgia
Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton
Heat Is Not Only Uncomfortable, It’s Dangerous!

People who are at an increased risk of illness or death from heat include the elderly, very young children, and people with chronic diseases, such as heart disease; people with mental illnesses; and people who are obese. However, even healthy young people can succumb to the heat if they are performing strenuous physical activity outdoors.

To avoid heat related illnesses or death, follow these simple tips:

- Drink lots of fluids, don’t wait until you are thirsty. Avoid alcoholic or caffeinated beverages.
- Try to limit outdoor activities to morning and evening hours. Try to rest often in shady areas to let your body cool down.
- If you are not accustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment, start slowly and pick up the pace gradually. If exertion in the heat makes you gasping for breath, STOP all activity. Get into a cool area or at least into the shade, and rest, especially if you become lightheaded, confused, weak, or faint.
- Never leave children or pets in a car, even if the windows are cracked or open.
- Check on adults that do not have air conditioning, have chronic diseases, or are obese.
- Avoid hot beverages and foods and avoid heavy meals.

Remember, heat can cause serious harm or death so if you see someone with symptoms, such as weakness, dizziness, paleness, heavy sweating, fainting, dry red skin or confusion get them to a cool place and call for medical help immediately.

Stay tuned for next week’s article on staying cool outdoors without air conditioning and follow us on Twitter @polkcohealth.

Submitted by the Polk County Health Department

Sure, you sweat a lot and it’s really uncomfortable when it’s extremely hot but is it as dangerous as a Blizzard? The surprising answer is yes, extreme heat is actually more dangerous than cold temperatures. As a matter of fact, extreme heat causes more deaths than lightning, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods... COMBINED (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

When I say extreme heat you probably thought of the 97 degree highs that we had last week. But even temperatures in the upper 80s can cause health problems. When the temperatures are high and especially when the humidity is high, your body temperature can quickly rise to dangerous levels that can cause damage to your brain and vital organs.

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Today In History • July 4th

Highlight in History:
On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

In 1802, the United States Military Academy officially opened at West Point, N.Y. In 1826, 50 years to the day after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, former presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died.

In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, died in New York City.

In 1845, Henry David Thoreau began his two-year experiment in simpler living at Walden Pond, near Concord, Mass.

In 1872, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was born in Plymouth, Vt.

In 1917, during a ceremony in Paris honoring the French hero of the American Revolution, U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Stanton declared, “Lafayette, we are here!”

In 1939, baseball’s “Iron Horse,” Los Gehrig, said farewell to his fans at New York’s Yankee Stadium.

In 1976, Israeli commandos raided Entebbe airport in Uganda, rescuing almost all of the passengers and crew of an Air France jetliner seized by pro-Palestinian hijackers.

In 1997, NASA’s Pathfinder spacecraft landed on Mars, inaugurating a new era in the search for life on the Red Planet.

In 2003, rhythm-and-blues singer Barry White died in Los Angeles at age 58.

Ten years ago: President Boris Yeltsin announced that Russian troops would be permanently stationed in Chechnya. British Prime Minister John Major won re-election as Conservative Party leader. The space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian space station Mir parted after spending five days in orbit docked together. Actress Eva Marie Saint was in a prison cell. Roger Federer overcame Andy Roddick’s power game to win his second straight Wimbledon title. 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-4. Meg Mallon won the women’s U.S. Open with a 6-under 65.

July 4th Birthdays:
Conductor Mitch Miller is 94. Advice columnist Pauline Phillips (the original “Dear Abby”) is 87. Actress Eva Marie Saint is 81. Playwright Neil Simon is 78. Baseball team owner George Steinbrenner is 75. Country singer Ray Pillow is 68. Singer Bill Withers is 67. Actor Ed Bernard is 66. Actress Karolyn Grimes is 65. Broadcast journalist Geraldo Rivera is 62. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ralph Johnson (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 54. Rock musician Domingo Ortiz (Widespread Panic) is 53. Singer John Waite is 50. Rock musician Kirk Pengilly (INXS) is 47. Country musician Teddy Carr is 45. Rock D-J Zonka (Big Audio Dynamite) is 43. Tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver is 43. Rock musician Matt Malley (Counting Crows) is 42. Actress Janica Begerre is 31. Singer Stephen “Ste” McNally (BBMak) is 27.

Thought for Today:
“If the American Revolution had produced nothing but the Declaration of Independence, it would have been worthwhile.”


Iowa Bystander Church Directory

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

Buras 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 Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.
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: 262-1875
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.

Belin Quartet Presents Free July 3rd Concert

The Belin Quartet, in association with Civic Music Association, will host a FREE concert at Nollen Plaza beginning at 12:15 pm on Friday, July 3rd. Eric Taylor, Assistant Professor of Music History and Musicology at Drake University, will introduce the Quartet.

The Quartet consists of alternating violinists Julie Fox Hensohn, John Helmich, Tracy Engman Finkelstein, violinist Sherida Josephson and cellist George Work.

The Quartet will be performing Mendelssohn’s String Quartet Op. 12. This piece was written in 1828 while Mendelssohn, in his late teens, traveled Europe as a composer and performer.

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, more commonly known in the west as simply Felix Mendelssohn, was a child prodigy composer and performer from Germany during the romantic period. Mendelssohn’s work was highly acclaimed in many sectors of the European society, especially in London, during his lifetime. His works and early potential has been compared to the likes of Bach.

Despite his popularity his work was often put under the microscope and unfavorably critiqued due to his Jewish background by anti-Semitic groups of the late 19th and early 20th century. During the Nazi regime his works and performances were banned in Germany all together. Despite the criticism, Mendelssohn’s music is now being re-evaluated and appreciated as it originally was in Europe.

When attending the concert, please stop by the information table to sign up for a chance to win two free season subscriptions to the Civic Music Association’s 85th Anniversary Season.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert will take place inside at the Kirkwood Hotel Lobby. Repertoire is subject to change.

To get your church in our directory call Jon at 515-770-1218!
DMACC, Main Stream Living Partner

In response to the massive and chronic unemploymen
of people with disabilities, Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) and Mainstream Living, a Central Iowa-based non-profit dedicated to improving the education, skills and the job prospects of people with disabilities.

Scott Wilert of Des Moines recently graduated from the DMACC/ Mainstream Living supported education program.

“I enjoyed taking the computer classes at DMACC,” Wilert said. “My new certificate will open up new employment doors for me,” said Wilert.

So far, 22 people, including Wilert, have enrolled in the pilot project that focuses on employability and in information technology, financial services, advanced manufacturing, health care and service/retail. All are growing industries in Central Iowa. Students are enrolled in a short term certificate program, after taking an assessment where they earn a Career Readiness Certificate. This employment credential demonstrates to employers that a person has basic skills in math, logic and reading comprehension as well as the person’s readiness for the workplace. The certificate training programs and assessments are free to participating students.

Pat Steele, Vice President with Mainstream Living, a Central Iowa-based non-profit dedicated to providing residential and vocational services to people with disabilities, came to DMACC last year in search of an education partner for the supported education program.

“The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 55 percent,” said Steele. “We must do more to help these Iowans move into the workforce.”

Supported education is a best practices model where participating students receive a broad range of services and support designed to help participating students succeed in college. The resulting pilot program is the first-of-its-kind in Iowa.

The short-term certificate programs are administered by DMACC’s Workforce Training Academy (WTA) and are offered at the DMACC Urban and Ankeny campuses. Mainstream Living provides each student an educational specialist to mentor them through the program.

After completion, participants earn a non-credit certification that will hopefully lead to greater job prospects.

“More you learn, the more you earn,” said Steele. “This educational program is designed to help people with disabilities become self-sufficient. After completion, we encouraged the graduates to either find work in their chosen area or pursue a college degree.”

Mary Chapman, DMACC Vice President of Community and Workforce Partnerships at DMACC, who oversees WTA, said too many people with disabilities are unable to find work, yet they can become outstanding employees.

“This is another segment of the population that can make an important contribution,” said Chapman. “We are hopeful that this employment model will be expanded to help the thousands of Central Iowans with disabilities who are currently unemployed.”

The supported education pilot program ends this December. After the supported education program is evaluated, it’s hoped that it will continue as a permanent offering at DMACC.

DMACC Students Set To Help Build New "Field Of Dreams"

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) announced plans to build a new baseball field on the DMACC Boone Campus. Construction is set to begin in August and completed in time for next year’s baseball season. It will be built with the use of in-kind support, private dollars and not from College operating funds.

“Coming off their second straight appearance in the College World Series, Coach Dan Fitzgerald and the DMACC Bears Baseball team will get their own ‘Field of Dreams’ to play on next year,” said Tom Lee, Provost of the Boone Campus. "The new field will validate the quality of our baseball program and improve attendance and recruiting.”

DMACC’s Board of Trustees approved the plans at this month’s meeting. Lee said the team has been looking forward to this project for the past few years, but a number of donors have recently stepped forward. The effort has so far attracted nearly $240,000 worth of financial commitments, including $50,000 from the Boone Campus Foundation.

“Thanks to some special people in the community, DMACC will have a new baseball field,” said Lee. The DMACC team, until now has played in Memorial Park, a city park on the north side of Boone. The new field will be located just west of the main academic building and close to athletic and training facilities on campus. Lee, DMACC Athletic Director Orv Salmon and Coach Fitzgerald will meet with architects next month. Ground breaking is set for early August.

To offset some of the costs, students from DMACC’s Civil Engineering Technology, Land Surveying and Building Trades programs are helping to layout and construct the new baseball park.

“We anticipate building the field in stages,” said Lee. “But our priority is to design and create a first class ball field in preparation for next season.”

“We’re excited about our team’s success and the impact this new baseball park will have on the team and College,” said Rob Denson, President of DMACC.

“All of our athletic teams are making important contributions by enhancing the reputation and college experience at DMACC.”

The DMACC Bears Baseball team had a 55-11 record, advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II College World Series for the second year in a row and placed in the top ten. The team was led this season by two First Team All-Americans—infelders Jake Astor of North Liberty and pitcher Patrick Cooper of Danville, KY. Astor was also named NJCAA Division II Player of the Year.

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Iowa Bystander • Page 10 July 1, 2009
The Declaration Of Independence (Preamble)

“When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that their creator with certain unalienable rights endows them, which among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience has shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.”

This is not the entire declaration of independence, but it is the part that is most pertinent in today’s America. If you would like to see the rest of the Declaration of Independence, let me know.  

R.L. Parkey

McCoy Launches New Firm

Matt McCoy announced that he will leave his position with the Downtown Community Alliance effective July 1, 2009. McCoy joined the Alliance in 2003 and served as Vice-President of Community Development.

McCoy is launching Resource Development Consultants (RDC), a firm specializing in fundraising, training, organizational development and retained executive search. McCoy will bring on associate, Dr. Jim Ferguson who has an extensive background in education, training and fundraising.

“Establishing RDC is exciting because it fulfills my dream to have a business that culminates my professional background and experiences. I have been talking with a number of organizations and I am pleased with how we are being received,” said McCoy.

“Working for the Downtown Community Alliance and promoting economic development in Downtown Des Moines has been a rewarding privilege. This is a particularly eventful time for the City with the amount of new stimulus money designated by the Iowa Legislature for this area.”

Resource Development Consultants will be located in Des Moines’ East Village at 305 E. Court Avenue.

Martha Willits, President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership added, “We are obviously sorry that Matt will be leaving our organization but excited that he will have the opportunity to fulfill a life-long dream of owning his own business.” Prior to his work for the Alliance, McCoy served as vice president of community development and human resource director for Ruan Transportation.

In addition, McCoy announced he will run for re-election to the Iowa Senate in 2010. Senator McCoy represents District 31, the south and west sides of Des Moines. He has served two terms in the Iowa House and is completing his fourth term in the Iowa Senate. McCoy serves as Chair of Transportation Capital Budget Appropriations, Vice Chair of Appropriations, and Vice Chair of Ways and Means.
Not advertising is like a wink in the dark!!!!!!

Get noticed in the Iowa Bystander

Not advertising is like a wink in the dark!!!!!!  Did I mention that the performance was awesome? Much to my pleasure it just keep getting better and better. What I thought was the conclusion of their act was actually a change of position. They walked down the aisle, through the audience (much to our excitement) and went to a microphone placed in the upper back area and sang at least four songs. One of which was an old skool song that I actually knew the lyrics to and was able to sing along with was, I’m a Believer by Neil Diamond. The concert concluded with a very excited crowd, begging for more. And more we did get. As we exited the arena, everyone received a complimentary cd. And much to my pleasure because, as much as I enjoyed the concert, I still had trouble understanding the lyrics. As I exited the arena, I found that I was as excited about the performance as everyone else was, to put it simply, going to this concert was worth every dime and more.

Setlist

1. Life In Technicolor
2. Violet Hill
3. Clocks
4. In My Place
5. Yellow
6. Glass Of Water
7. Cemeteries Of London
8. 42
9. Fix You
10. Strawberry Swing
11. God Put A Smile Upon Your Face (Partial Techno Remix)
12. Talk (Partial Techno Remix)
13. The Hardest Part (Chris Solo Piano)
14. Postcards From Far Away (Chris Solo Piano)
15. Viva La Vida
16. Lost!
17. Green Eyes (acoustic)
18. Death Will Never Conquer (Acoustic, sung by Will)
19. I’m A Believer (Neil Diamond Cover - Acoustic)
20. Viva La Vida (Remix Interlude)
21. Politik
22. Lovers In Japan
23. Death And All His Friends

Encore

24. The Scientist
25. Life In Technicolor ii
26. The Escapist (Outro)

Overall Review: Coldplay is a must see concert. Time, something I value more than money, was well spent. To those of you who missed it, You really missed a great performance!

-Jen Narcisse & Lena

Drafting the Declaration of Independence

Drafting the Declaration of Independence, by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin were named to a committee to prepare a declaration of independence. Jefferson (standing) did the actual writing because he was known as a good writer. Congress deleted Jefferson’s most extravagant rhetoric and accusations.

Burns United Methodist Church

1st Annual Classic Car Show

July 4th • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
2 Huge Parking Lots 800 - 811 Crocker

10 Trophy Prizes!

- Best Show Car 1st Place Only
- 3 Prizes for Best Painted Car
- 3 Prizes for Best Car Interior Design
- 3 Prizes for Best Car Design
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Each

Entry Fee Donation of $25.00 Per Car

To Register Contact:
- Mr. Roger L. Parkey at 515-43-4895
- Mr. Clifford Watkins at 515-282-4244
- Gaynelle Narcisse at 515-274-1342

Everyone Welcome!