Family Reunion For Nellie Evans Reaches Historic Milestone With 80th Anniversary

More than five generations and 200 members of the pioneer Evans family came from near and far to participate in the 80th Evans Family Reunion, held Memorial Day weekend at Union Park here.

“My family has come together every year for the past 80 years to honor the memory of my sister, Nellie Evans,” said former Des Moines resident Frank Evans, who now lives in Denver. “Nellie died at age 16 when she drowned in a gravel pit on Des Moines’ southeast side. We come together every year to keep her memory alive and to celebrate the lives of all of the Evans family.”

The family of Jennie and W.C. Evans and children Roberta, Harold, Elmer, Nellie, Everdell and Frank, is today composed of numerous families, including the Fraziers and McGregors and others in Des Moines.

This year, there were special family reunions and other events to mark the 80th year the family has come together in solidarity and kinship to keep the family connections strong.

Evans’ traveled from Colorado, Missouri, Texas, Minnesota and other states to strengthen their family ties.

The weekend of fellowship and kinship began with Ed and Ruby Frazier renewing their wedding vows on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. On Saturday, the family gathered at Union Park for the traditional family picnic that featured a family history exhibit, wall of praise noting the accomplishments of family members, a cake walk, memorial balloon release, silent auction and family games.

With increased interest in genealogy and a renewed sense of racial pride, family reunions have taken on added significance in the African American community in the past 20 years, experts say. In fact, dozens of books several websites have sprung up to help plan family reunions. (For example: http://reunions.afrigeneas.com/resources.html.) African Americans are being encouraged to use the reunions to not only spend quality time with relatives far and near, but to share valuable family history, including medical history.

In the meantime, as other families are catching up to where the Evans’ family is, plans have begun for the 81st Evans reunion, to be held Memorial Day weekend at Union Park in Des Moines.

Iowa Youth Leadership Forum Celebrates Ten Years

The Iowa Youth Leadership Forum for High School Students with Disabilities (YLF) will be celebrating a ten year anniversary with a get together on Aug. 22nd at the Drury Inn of WDM.

This successful forum, which has almost 300 graduates, is designed to teach leadership, self-advocacy and employment skills to Iowa high school students with disabilities and all are invited to celebrate this momentous occasion in youth transition. Of course anyone associated with the YLF program as a staff member or participant is invited to attend.

For more information email Marsha Cooper at m_dela@hotmail.com or Reann Risor at hotpnturtle@hotmail.com.

Out of Life Line Resources comes the Shooting Stars Basketball League. This league was started by Sean Alford. Along with Sean is his wife, Janiece Alford, and counselor, Fonda Martinez. They teach cheerleading, dance and basketball. They have close to 125 children involved.

The games are held in Evelyn Davis Park at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. The first game started on July 21, 2009 and they will play every following Tuesday until completion of their tournament. Each team has a coach and the children have team t-shirts with a number and the name of the league printed on them.

There is plenty of adult supervision and they have a wonderful following of parents, family, and friends supporting them.

See the full photospread on page 6 of this edition of Iowa Bystander.

Story and photos by Fred Narcisse

For Whom The Bill Tolls

Written by African American Leadership Coalition (AALC)

House Bill 901 is a bill that offers a seamless fabric to life for those who frequent the club scene in Polk County. It is a response to the death of Charles Lovelady. For what happens to one affects us all. Without House Bill 901 and its enforcement, another tragedy could diminish the quality of life for other young adults in a city rich in promises.

House Bill 901 is established in Polk County requiring bars and taverns with an occupancy of at least 200 and with a cover charge of at least $5.00 to employ at least one person trained in security techniques. The eight-hour training, that is held at Urban Campus DMACC, covers techniques for safely removing people from the premise, de-escalation techniques, anger management, civil rights awareness and other elements that could help prevent another club tragedy.

This bill creates a 2½-year pilot program after which the Iowa Legislature will receive a report about the program’s effectiveness in 2011. Iowa Workforce Development’s Division of Labor Services developed the template for administering the training.
Title Fight, Olympian Set the Stage For Des Moines’ First All Pro MMA Event

MaxFightsDM, Des Moines’ newest and most exciting professional mixed martial arts (MMA) promotion, returns to the historic Val Air Ballroom with its second event on Friday, August 28.

The main event will award MaxFightsDM’s first title belt, when Demi Deeds meets Jason Gilliam (welterweight). Both fighters were victorious in MaxFightsDM’s first event on June 19, when UFC vet Gilliam defeated fellow UFC vet James Gibbo. Deeds defeated Chuck Parmelee, and picked up the Polanti Watches’ “Fighter of the Night Award.” Upon his win in June, Gilliam immediately declared his intent to return to Des Moines in his quest for the belt. Deeds, indisputably the local favorite, was also victorious in a recent main event of another Iowa light promotion, and is certain to have throngs of fans in the stands.

The co-main event features 2008 U.S. Olympian, two-time NCAA wrestling champion, and two-time Hodge Trophy winner, Ben Askren (pictured), against the very tenured and heavy handed Matt Delanoit. While Delanoit’s ground game is stellar, the challenge of competing on the mat is apparent. Delanoit, based in Omaha, is a seasoned MMA veteran, with a long and decidedly winning record. Delanoit is preparing for this fight by training with renowned coach Joe Bauer, and with several elite fighters including UFC vets Jason Brilz and Ryan Jensen, as well as Bellator fighters Jake Ellenberger and Alonso Martinez. Askren was described by the MMA journal, Five Ounces of Pain, as “unquestionably one of the most phenomenal collegiate athletes in the history of American wrestling.” His MMA record includes only two fights, albeit definitive wins (one by knockout, one by submission). This match-up illustrates MaxFightsDM’s commitment to taking MMA in Iowa to new heights.

The second event of the evening welcomes the return of Brian “SMOKIN” Green to the cage. A former champion and belt holder in Iowa, Green received arthroscopic surgery following his last fight in January, where he defeated Jason Louke via an arm bar, even with severely limited mobility. During his recovery process, Green remains fully immersed in the MMA lifestyle, through his amateur promotion with Antony Porcelli (Des Moines MMA Fight Night), and as a match maker, official, and fighter manager. An announcement of an opponent will be made soon. Fans need to show up early, as this bout kicks things off promptly at 7:30 PM.

Ballroom Brawl is the first MMA event in Iowa where all bouts are professional fighters. “There are so many great opportunities for amateur fighters to work themselves up the ranks to pro, and we’re thrilled to present a showcase for those fighters,” commented MaxFightsDM partner, Scott Casher. Other featured fighters include Jaxson Mason vs. Abel Trijulio, and a battle of the big boys, as Johnny Orr faces Jordan Wall in the heavyweight division. Additionally, MaxFightsDM will provide cash awards to fighters for “Knockout of the Night”, “Submission of the Night”, and “Fight of the Night”, assuring added motivation for all fighters.

Doors open at 6:30 PM. Fights begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Tickets for the event start at $25 and can be purchased at the Val Air Box Office, and through our ticketmaster.com. VIP tables can be purchased by calling (515) 274-0849.

Komodo Club, at 214 3rd Street, Des Moines, sponsors the official weigh-in event on Thursday, August 27 at 7PM, and the official after-party immediately following Ballroom Brawl.

Ballroom Brawl presenter, Max Muscle, along with MaxFightsDM, is working in conjunction with the Blood Center of Iowa on a blood drive to be held at Max Muscle in Clive, at 1300 NW 105th Street, on Wednesday, August 26. All donors will be entered into a raffle to win free tickets to the event. Max Muscle will offer significant product discounts to donors during the drive.

Something To Think About

TimeLife Music Customer Service Works Afterall

Guess What? I got it. My refund from TimeLife Music that I wrote about in the June 17, 2009 issue of the Iowa Bystander. So, this is a follow-up, just to let you know that as a consumer, I stood up for what I believe in and the company honored their return policy. You see, if I had not been persistent, if I had not kept all of my supporting documents, I probably would not have received the refund. But I did. And they did.

Not true. Good Customer Service. You see, as consumers, we have the responsibility and obligation to complain when we do not receive good customer service. We have the right to expect resolution and satisfaction as a result of our complaints. As such, we have the right to continue to patronize that company, we complained about, once we have been made whole. You see, good customer service is something that all of us deserve.

To not imply that from time to time we may poor customer service. But to emphasize the point that you do do...complain...and complain to someone who can make a difference. Why am I reiterating this point? Because if we are unwilling to complain to the company owners, the people with the real power, who can make a difference. Or we complain anonymously, therefore, the owners cannot address our complaints because they do not know how to reach us. We simply walk away. Complaining to our friends, family, anyone who will stand still enough to listen. Nothing will change. When you share your bad experience with family and friends, advising them not to support that company, who you feel did you wrong, the end result may only be that the service that this business tried to offer to the public, will no longer be there. We just keep the complaint to ourselves. A practice of protesting with our feet. Something that I see many unhappy customers do. Especially to Black Owned and Operated Businesses.

We have our own pity parties. When we don’t complain. Eventually, the business shuts down. And then we wonder why there aren’t any Black businesses providing that service. A service that the Black community so desperately need.

What I want to say is that in the future you are an unsatisfied customer, complain. And when you complain, be it in writing or in person, be sure to identify yourself. Helpless to resolve your issue and it provides the company with much needed information. Information that may impact their policy. Inspiring a reaction that will encourage not only good but excellent Customer Service. Actually, something that each and every customer must expect, whether the company is a small publication or a Fortune 500 company.

Besides, if you don’t complain, when you feel you have received Poor Customer Service...it doesn’t necessarily mean that the company has poor customer service...maybe it means that you are a poor customer for not letting them know.

Just a little something for you to think about.

WANTED: CHURCH SECRETARY

Burns United Methodist Church needs a part time secretary, 10 hours a week. Job requirements include proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel and excellent communication skills. Full job description is available at the church office.

Any one interested, please send resume to Dr. Stephen Barry c/o Burns UMC, Croker St, Des Moines, IA 50309.

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**Single Tickets On Sale For Civic Music Association’s 85th Anniversary Season**

The Russell Malone Quartet will start the New Year with a concert on Saturday, January 23, 2010. The New York Times proclaims, “Not only is his swing headlong, but his ideas also don’t stop coming.” In addition to touring regularly as leader of The Russell Malone Quartet, Russell Malone can be seen in appearances with Dianne Reeves and Romero Lubambo.

Friday, February 26, 2010 (7:30 pm) will feature and evening of marvelous chamber music with The Poulenc Trio. Combining brilliant 21st-century vibrancy with the best of European instrumental tradition, the trio’s performances leap beyond the ordinary concert experience, transporting audiences into a world of beautiful sonorities, playful rhythms and dramatic excitement. The Poulenc Trio brings together three uniquely gifted virtuosos, oboist Vladimir Lande, bassoonist Bryan Young, and pianist Irina Lande.

Wrapping up our anniversary season on Saturday, April 17, 2010 will be jazz vocalist Jackie Ryan. Ms. Ryan’s creativity as an artist and performer has put her much in demand for concerts with sold-out shows not only at London’s Ronnie Scott’s and at Christofori’s in Amsterdam, but also at New York’s Lincoln Center’s Dizzy’s Club and at Los Angeles’ Jazz Bakery. Ms. Ryan will appear with local jazz favorites Steve Charleston (bass) and Jim Eklof (drums).

In addition to our concert series, Civic Music Association is committed to enriching the community through FREE Partners in Music Education programs. Each artist will conduct free educational events in the community inviting students and the general public to learn from some of the greatest international touring musicians of all time.

For more information about Civic Music Association, call 515-280-4020 or visit us at www.civicmusic.org.

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**Progressive Baptists Call For Peace In Afghanistan, Iraq**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - The Progressive National Baptist Convention finished its weeklong annual session by announcing resolutions calling for a halt to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The convention’s president, the Rev. T. DeWitt Smith Jr. (pictured), was quoted in The Courier-Journal as saying that the large black Baptist convention believes “wars are unjust.”

Other resolutions passed by the convention last week in Louisville called for such far-reaching goals as universal health care, increasing funding to combat HIV and AIDS, a right to quality education for all, prison reform and efforts to combat poverty and racism.

The Washington, D.C.-based denomination says it has about 1.5 million members in the United States.

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**“We 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
Candidate Krause Predicts That His “Grand Compromise” Proposal Will Be Included In House Bill For Health Care

Bob Krause, Democratic Candidate for the U.S. Senate, today predicted that his “grand compromise” proposal he presented to Sen. Charles Grassley last month will be part of the health care reform package that passes the U.S. House of Representatives.

Krause challenged Senator Grassley to accept the “grand compromise” in a press release and news conference prior to the Democratic Hall of Fame Banquet in Des Moines on June 27. In the proposal, Grassley was asked to yield on his oft stated opposition to having a public provider of health care in return for getting a better shake for Iowa in terms of Medicaid reimbursements.

“I first heard from Congressman Dave Loebsack on Saturday that the terms I proposed are in the mix and is being advocated by Iowa Democratic members of the Congress. Today Bloomberg news reported that Chairman Henry Waxman has accepted it into the legislative package. This is great news for Iowa, and I hope that Senator Grassley will do the right thing and support it when the bill comes to the Senate,” stated Krause.

“Jowa has one of the lowest Medicare reimbursement rates in the nation, and its impact on our health care structure is pervasive,” said Krause. “This may be the only opportunity we have to do something about it in the next decade. If Senator Grassley walks away from this in the Senate, he will be doing a very real disservice to the people of Iowa,” said Krause.

According to Bloomberg News, “Waxman agreed to a provision to create an independent commission that would set reimbursement rates for Medicare providers each year . . . . such a body would take politics out of decisions on the federal insurance for the elderly, giving Congress an up-or-down vote on any changes, without amendment.”

Krause said that this is essentially the trigger amendment for the grand compromise he has proposed “Instead of a formula that is locked in forever, a group of professionals will work to set the reimbursement rate,” said Krause. “This way, if there is a mistake, we can come back the next year to ask for redress,” said Krause. “Speaker Pelosi and Waxman need this to keep rural Democrats’ support for the bill in forever, a group of professionals will work to set the reimbursement rate,” said Krause. “This way, if there is a mistake, we can come back the next year to ask for redress,” said Krause. “Speaker Pelosi and Waxman need this to keep rural Democrats’ support for the bill in.

Krause pointed out that, among all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Iowa ranks 49th in reimbursements per Medicare enrollee.

The disparity began when the Medicare reimbursement formula was changed in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Krause, a native of northwestern Iowa, lives in Fairfield with his wife, Vicky. A former state legislator, Krause presently serves as chair of the Iowa Democratic Veterans Caucus.

Naomi Sims, Among First Black Models, Dies At 61

NEW YORK (AP) - Naomi Sims, the fashion model who in 1968 became the first black model to appear on the cover of Ladies’ Home Journal, has died. She was 61.

Sims, said by some to be the first black supermodel, died Saturday of cancer in Newark, N.J., her son Bob Findlay told The New York Times. It had been decades since she left the runway to become an author and launch her own beauty empire.

Sims attained success at the same time that the “Black is Beautiful” movement was taking hold, and her accomplishments as a barrier-breaking African-American model helped pave the way for the black runway stars of the 1970s, including Pat Cleveland, Alva Chinn and Beverly Johnson.

Sims often spoke of her difficult start as a gangly foster-care kid in Pittsburgh who towered over the other children in her school. In 1966, she came to New York City to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology on scholarship.

When she began approaching modeling agencies, she was turned down again and again . . . with some telling her that her skin was too dark. Instead of giving up, she pushed forward and approached photographers directly.

The approach landed her the cover of the Times’ August 1967 fashion supplement. She used that photo to market herself directly to advertising agencies, and within a year she was earning $1,000 a week and appearing in a national television campaign for AT&T. Before long, she was modeling for top designers.

Sims gave up modeling after five years and launched her own wig-making business geared toward black women. She eventually expanded the multimillion-dollar business to include beauty salons and cosmetics, and she wrote “All About Health and Beauty for the Black Woman” and other books.

Sims was born in Oxford, Miss., in 1948. Her parents divorced soon after she was born and her mother moved Sims and her two sisters to Pittsburgh. Besides her son, Sims is survived by a sister, Betty, and a granddaughter.

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Psalms 127...For so He giveth His beloved sleep

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**“Seven Seals” For Your Spiritual Diet**

By Carolyn Clinton King C., Th.D

Welcome back dear heart, it’s another day’s jour-
ney, 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.”

Last time we looked at the opening of the 1st seal;
When the 2nd Seal is opened in Revelation 6:3-4 A
“Red Horse” appears, the Rider of which has power
to take peace from the earth. The symbolism: Red,
the color of the horse, is a symbol of ‘blood’, and the
sword of ‘war.” The time is clearly prophesied by
Christ in Matt. 24:6-7. The outcome of these wars
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And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.
Matthew 18:13
New Center Offers Life Changing Opportunity For Dropouts

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), Iowa Comprehensive Human Services (ICHS) and Central Iowa Works have joined forces to give central Iowans a second chance at education.

The first step is the new Central Iowa Reengagement Center that will serve as a centralized resource and referral agency to reengage high school dropouts over age 16.

The Center will assess reading, math and literacy, review transcripts and conduct a comprehensive social, economic and behavior assessment to serve clients’ education and employment goals.

“The Center is a coordinated, communitywide initiative to serve a growing audience of high school dropouts. Our goal is to provide more career opportunities that will help people to better themselves and their families,” said Mary Chapman, Vice President, Community and Workforce Partnerships, DMACC.

According to the last U.S. census, 42,560 people over the age of 18 in Polk, Dallas and Warren Counties, had not earned a high school diploma or GED.

“‘Reengagement specialists’ who work at the center will promote all high schools, GED, and alternative education options in the community to help these young Iowans achieve their educational goals,” said Chapman. Central Iowa Works will help Reengagement Center staff and clients in developing plans that align education and employment opportunities with high demand, high growth careers in central Iowa. DMACC, in cooperation with the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Iowa Employment Solutions, United Way of Central Iowa and Iowans for Social and Economic Development, have partnered to develop Central Iowa Works.

“President Barack Obama has said that in order for our nation to retain its leadership, we must have a well educated population and high school education is a start to this. We welcome the opportunity to begin this community effort,” said Jim Underwood, Executive Director, Iowa Comprehensive Human Services.

ICHS is an agency providing employment and training services funded by various federal, state, county and local initiatives. Its mission is to provide education and jobs to low income and at-risk Iowans.

The Reengagement Center will serve all central Iowans in an effort to increase the number of people finding success in the workplace and decrease their dependence on public assistance.

“The Reengagement Center will take the time and effort to evaluate each persons needs and tailor a plan of action that utilizes the best this community has to offer in addition to providing that neutral zone where all the pieces of the puzzle can be put on the table to rebuild lives,” said Marlana Schnell, the Director at the Central Iowa Reengagement Center.

The Central Iowa Reengagement Center is located at 1200 University Avenue in Des Moines.
Augustine Completes Latham Internship

WASHINGTON, DC – A six-week Capitol Hill internship in Congressman Tom Latham’s Washington office gave 20-year-old T.J. Augustine a new appreciation for the nuances of public policy. Augustine said on his last day in Latham’s office.

Augustine, a Fort Dodge native attending Iowa State University, said sorting constituent mail and answering phones in the office exposed him to a wide range of opinions and ideas on the issues being debated in Congress.

“It was interesting to hear all the different views that constituents had,” Augustine said. “Some of these policy areas are so complex that it seems like there’s always something new to consider.”

Augustine said he’s going back to school after completing his internship to finish his political science degree at Iowa State. After that, he said he has his sights set on law school.

Throughout his internship, Augustine took on responsibilities such as going through constituent mail, answering phones and giving guided tours of the U.S. Capitol to constituents. He said the internship granted him an in-depth look at the legislative process.

“I think the most valuable experience was seeing our lawmaking process from the front lines and in a small way getting to be a part of it,” he said.

Congressman Latham congratulated Augustine at the completion of his internship.

“T.J. should be proud of the work he’s done in my office over the course of the past few weeks,” Congressman Latham said. “He’s made a real contribution to my team while gaining some great experience in Washington.”

Congressman Latham’s office looks for new interns.

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EEO/AA

Five Candidates On Short List For SCLC President

ATLANTA (AP) - The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s youngest daughter is among five candidates vying to lead the organization the civil rights icon helped found more than five decades ago.

If she is chosen, Bernice King, who is also a minister, would be the first woman to lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The group met this week for its annual convention in Memphis, Tenn., where King was killed in 1968.

He was the SCLC’s first president, serving from 1957 until his death. His son, Martin Luther King III, was president from 1997 to 2004.

Interim President Byron Clay confirmed three of the five candidates seeking to become the group’s seventh president were: King, SCLC Georgia State President Samuel Mosteller and activist Markel Hutchins, founder of the National Youth Connection. Mosteller and Hutchins are also ministers. Officials declined to say who the remaining candidates are.

Clay is not among those seeking the position permanently. He said the SCLC expects to begin interviewing the candidates within the next 45 days. None of the candidates were invited to address the board of directors at the convention.

“We are insistent upon making sure whole process is done with full integrity and on high plane of fairness and that it is done in a timely and orderly fashion,” Clay said on Tuesday.

Clay has served as interim president since February, when Charles Steele resigned after five years in the position. Steele is credited with ending much of the infighting in the organization, righting the SCLC’s finances and opening a $3 million headquarters in downtown Atlanta debt-free.

Infighting and a lack of permanent leadership have become issues in recent months as the SCLC has focused on regrouping, rebuilding and redefining its agenda in a heightened climate of racial awareness ushered in by the election of Barack Obama, the country’s first black president.
Medical Marijuana, I’m Skeptical About A Ban

Submitted By Dr. Alan Koslow M.D.

One week from today the State Board of Pharmacy of Iowa will hold a public hearing on medicinal use of marijuana. This is an issue that has vexed me for many years. As a physician who treats patients with severe pain syndromes I have seen many a patient get addicted to legal prescription pain medication while still suffering. This is because the legal pain medication is not the best medicine to treat a pain syndrome called neuropathic pain. How I explain it to my patients is that narcotic pain medications will knock you out and as your drifting off you are still experiencing pain. There are multiple studies which have documented good pain relief with smoking marijuana for neuropathic pain syndromes. There are many other proven uses for medical marijuana. However, our prejudices prevent use from being approved. Now the real question is, since we are only talking about medical marijuana, how addictive is it compared to prescription pain and anti-nausea medication. All the evidence points to marijuana is far less addictive then almost all prescription pain medication.

So let us get over our paranoia and allow our patients to have the best treatment available for certain conditions. Dr. Alan Koslow is a vascular surgeon, former Iowa State Legislature candidate and a regular on the Deace Group Round Table on WHO 1040 AM Fridays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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Church Office 515-243-2852 ext 75

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

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

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

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

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Senior College of Greater Des Moines has added one-time special events to its lineup for the coming fall semester.

Senior College is sponsoring a behind-the-scenes visit to new facilities of the Animal Rescue League of Iowa September 14, with executive director Tom Colvin as host. On October 20, Iowa Court of Appeals Judge Larry Eisenhauer will host a Senior College group at the Iowa Judicial Building, where they will see the Iowa Supreme Court in session.

Senior College also has 17 short courses starting in either September or October. New class topics for fall will include an introduction to people and Asian cultures represented in Des Moines, and lively discussion of important current issues. Other classes will examine the arts, history, computers, travel, religion, ecology and politics.

Pre-registration is required for all Senior College programs. For more information, visit www.myseniorcollege.com, or telephone 515-244-0631.

Senior College offers adults over 50 a wide array of classes for the enjoyment of learning and the pleasure of meeting others with similar interests. There are no tests or grades. Daytime classes meet once a week for four to eight weeks and cost $48 to $96 each. Senior College is a not-for-profit program.
Coaches Hit The Golf Course To Fight Cancer

The 2nd Annual Coaches vs. Cancer Charity Golf Classic presented by the American Cancer Society will be held Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Talons of Tuscany Golf Course in Ankeny, Iowa. The hosts for the event include the four Division I Basketball Coaches in Iowa, Iowa State’s Greg McDermott, UNI’s Ben Jacobson, Drake’s Mark Phelps, and Iowa’s Todd Lickliter, along with their wives. Former coaches Gene Keedy of Purdue and Johnny Orr of Iowa State will also be there, and additional coaches will be announced soon. The coaches, former players, and local celebrities will serve as “amateurs” and be paired with each foursome.

The honorary guest at this year’s event is cancer survivor Dave Howard of Iowa Falls. Howard was helped in his treatment with the drug, Rituxan, discovered in part by Ronald Levy, MD, a researcher funded by the American Cancer Society. A former basketball coach himself, Howard is a supporter of many of the athletic programs in the state. “The involvement of these coaches, who give tirelessly of their time and energy to raise awareness of the fight against cancer, is a prime example of how teamwork is the key to winning that fight,” said Howard.

Coaches vs. Cancer is in its third year in Iowa, and already has raised over $500,000 in support of the programs, services, and research of the American Cancer Society.

For more information about the Coaches vs. Cancer Charity Golf Classic, please contact Julie Kiefer at 515-727-0054 or Julie.kiefer@cancer.org. A few select foursomes are still available.

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight. As the nation’s largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing nearly $3.4 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

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Iowa CCI Members Blast Culver For Factory Farm Bailout Request

Group says Culver is pandering to corporate ag interests

Members of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement today blasted Iowa Governor Chet Culver for requesting a $50 million, taxpayer-funded bailout of the factory farm industry last week. CCI leaders said Culver’s request is nothing more than pandering to well-financed corporate ag groups at the expense of everyday people and our environment.

In a letter last Thursday to President Barack Obama, Culver and eight other Governors requested $50 million of taxpayer money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to buy over-produced pork off the market. This follows similar requests made by the National Pork Producers Council in early May and Iowa Secretary of Ag Bill Northeby in June.

The hog factory industry, though, has received two recent taxpayer-funded bailouts from USDA — one for $25 million in March 2009 and the other for $50 million in April 2008 — to buy over-produced pork off the market. CCI president Barb Kalbach, a family farmer from Adair County, said “We are fed up with bailing out this industry that pollutes our air and water and drives family farmers out of business. Pres. Obama should deny Culver’s request immediately. Our public officials should stand up for the common good and the interests of all taxpayers, not for the big-money, special interests of corporate ag.”

Ag economists have warned for months that the pork industry must stabilize prices by trimming the fat and reducing the herd size. But the pork industry has ignored basic economic rules and continues to increase supply as demand goes down. This is the result of continuous government subsidies and bailouts to the factory farm industry.

“Corporate ag receives government subsidies and guaranteed loans that promote the expansion of factory farms on the front end,” said CCI member Lori Nelson of Bayard. “And then, when they produce too much pork, they ask the government — that’s us — to bail them out with huge amounts of taxpayer dollars. The factory farm industry is a house of cards that would crumble as soon as you take away taxpayers propping them up.”

To learn more about what we can do to stand up for the common good and stop taxpayer-support for factory farms, contact Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement at 515-282-0484 or visit iowacci.org for more information.

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement is a group of everyday people who talk, act and get things done on issues that matter most. With thousands of members from all walks of life — urban and rural, black and white, immigrants and lifelong Iowans — CCI has been tackling tough issues and getting things done for more than 30 years.
The Out-Of-Towners
Featuring Gaylene Narcisse

I am Gaylene Narcisse, a native Iowan, the daughter of Mr. Fred Narcisse (deceased), & Mrs. Gaynelle Narcisse. I am the catalyst behind this column. After graduating from Roosevelt High School, I attended the University of Iowa, and received my Bachelors of Arts undergraduate degree from Drake University. My declared major, Computer Information System (CIS). After graduation my friends wondered why I didn’t leave Iowa. Well, at the age of 28, I did. With my degree in CIS, I have had the opportunity to work and/or live in not only Iowa, but also California, Arizona, New Jersey, Illinois, Wisconsin, Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Michigan. Now, 25 years later, my friends ask me…when are you going to settle down and live in one place? My response is, “There are 50 states in this union, my goal is to spend time in each one of them”.

Over the past few years, my goals have changed somewhat. Once again, I desire the stability of being in one place for the rest of my life with the opportunity to travel to the remaining 30 or so states that I have not lived in or visited yet. You see, I still love to travel. And have had the chance to travel outside of the United States to places like Puerto Rico, Mexico (Cancun and Tijuana), St. Martin, Aruba, Antigua, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, England, Belgium, France, New Zealand and Australia. I have had the opportunity to see a live Bull Fight and the Sydney Opera house. I had the good fortune to spend Christmas and New Year’s in Paris, France. And…. to see the Eiffel Tower at night, which is spectacular sight! So far, I have been on 3 cruises and my next cruise destination is Alaska, hopefully during the whale migration. (I heard that this cruise is wonderful). Additionally, I have written a book that I hope to publish one day. With all of that traveling, much to my pleasure, the most important accomplishments, in my life, have to do with being blessed to be a daughter, sister, mother, wife and friend.

So why am I sharing this with the readers of the Iowa Bystander? The point is that though my life has been ordinary, I enjoy it very much, so much so that I want to let you know that I am having a great time, doing a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Stuff that isn’t important like becoming the President of the United States or finding the cure for cancer. Just ordinary stuff. And it saddens me to know that so few people think that their lives, (the lives of their children, loved ones, friends), aren’t worth writing/talking/about. That the opportunity to “toot your own horn” or “wag your own tail” (in your own words) may be missed.

When I proposed this column as a regular part of the Iowa Bystander, the intent was for it to be 100% submission based. A column that was written by and for ordinary people. A way to give us ordinary people a platform so that we can write what we want other ordinary people to know about us, in our own words. Not to have someone else tell our History, which reporters do.

Allowing others to tell our story is something that African Americans have had to deal with since the beginning of our existence in this country. You see, I believe the historical story behind slavery would have been different if told from the view of the slaves rather than from the slave owners. I believe that the story behind our lives is written differently by a reporter rather than when written by ourselves. Don’t you?

With that said, due to the lack of submissions, sadly, this will be the last article for this column. Being that I am on my way….again….to live in Michigan, the only way this column will continue, from my perspective, is for you to write and send/email “your story” to me. My email address is gaylene@iowacable.com. With all the talented people we have in Iowa and those native Iowan’s that have moved away, I must agree, “It is the sad dog that won’t wag it’s own tail”. Unless….you decide to take advantage of this front page column. Write “your story” and email it to me (along with a photo…..jpg format attachment, please). I am sure that the Iowa Bystanders readers would love to read about you, as an ordinary person. I know I did.

Study: Half Of Chicago’s HIV-positive Unaware

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Public Health Department estimates 17 percent of gay men in Chicago are HIV-positive, with half of them unaware they are infected.

Health officials also say although black men who have sex with other men have double the HIV infection rates of white and Hispanic men.

Public Health Department assistant commissioner Christopher Brown says it isn’t known why black men are disproportionately affected by HIV.

He said the health department is working with social service groups to expand testing and increase contact with the city’s gay and bisexual population.

Health officials said Friday information in the report on HIV infection mark the first time Chicago health officials have used blood-testing to determine infection rates among men.

According to Brown, past estimates have relied solely on interviews with gay and bisexual men about their HIV status.

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