Tariq Brown of West Des Moines competed in the 2009 Junior Olympic Games held at Drake University August 1st-August 8th. Tariq who is a 4th grader at the Des Moines Downtown School won the sub bantam boys long jump division with a jump of 14.05.00.

He also medaled in the 100 M dash by finishing 6th nationally and 9th nationally in the 200 M dash.

Tariq won the USATF boys bantam long jump at the Iowa Junior Olympic Championships held at Johnston High School June 20th-21st with a jump of 14.07.00, the AAU Junior Olympic National qualifier meet in Pella, Iowa June 25th-28th and the USATF regional in Omaha, Nebraska held July 9th-12th with a jump of 13.09.00.

The Central Iowa Excaliburs track team earned over 11 national medals in the 2009 AAU and USATF Junior Olympic games.

Tariq who is the son of Kenneth and Yolanda Brown and grandson of Larry and Judith Brown and Richard Newman is a member of Maple Street Baptist Church.
Some Advice On Talking To Children About Racism

By LEANNE ITALIE • Associated Press Writer

Stephanie Ward drives her two biracial children to a black school an hour away to give them a break from their predominately white neighborhood in suburban Dallas. Yet, it’s hardly enough to eliminate racism from their lives.

Some of her neighbors in Plano won’t allow their kids to speak to her 4- and 6-year-olds. “They act as if we’re from Mars,” she said.

While the rebuff can be stressful - on the kids and mom - Ward was outraged when she learned that a private swim club in suburban Plano allowed her children entry this summer. The club is mostly black and Hispanic campers. Several campers reported hearing racial comments the first time they showed up at the club and some members pulled their children out of the pool.

The camp’s $1,950 was refunded a few days later.

“The Philly situation angers me and reminds me that I’m still black in America,” said Ward. “I won’t tell my children about this. I refuse to pass on the legacy of paranoia and the sense that they’re not good enough.”

In the Detroit suburb of Canton, Kim Crouch was also angered about the treatment of the camp group June 29 at The Valley Club in Huntington Valley, even though the club’s president said overcharging - not racism - was the reason the kids of color were turned away. The club has since invited the campers back.

The explanation sounds like business as usual to Crouch, who has been educating her 7- and 10-year-olds about handling racism since preschool. In third grade, her oldest son was told by a classmate “she wasn’t allowed to talk to him because he was a brown kid.”

Crouch, a member of President Barack Obama energizing a new generation, racial conflict can be even more confusing for minority kids. Some tips for parents:

Talk To Them Before It Happens

Crouch, who wrote a book called “Mother to Son: Words of Wisdom, Inspiration and Hope for Today’s Young African-American Male,” said it is important that parents teach kids early about racism. She believes that make them feel uncomfortable, she said.

“I think kids in 4th grade, when I was in 4th grade, I realized they were different.”

Parents can also encourage schools to hold regular assemblies about racial tolerance and organize families to share information and tackle race-fueled conflict together. If a child is confronted by a racial remark or incident, offer reassurance “that it’s OK to feel whatever he/she may feel,” then let the young person decide how to respond after talking it over.

Explain Differences

Fathay Ayesa, a black mother in Atlanta, believes in noting differences between races early so they are not negatively internalized.

As her 2-year-old daughter grows up, she plans to “inform her that she is a black person” descended from Africa, while “many of her friends are descended from Europe, Asia and South America. I’ll let her know that culturally we are different but we are all people who should be respected.”

Instill Pride

Provide activities and events where children can meet and befriend others who look like them in a meaningful way. Cadamy said her 10-year-old daughter “expresses a desire to look more like Barbie than herself,” so she has encouraged her to learn more about black history and the civil rights movement as a way to foster racial pride.

“I’ve fully convinced her to wear her beautiful hair naturally, in a short afro, with a headband rather than trying to straighten it or wrangle it in some way. So hopefully, we’re making progress.”

Address Racism When It Happens

Reinforce in children that racism “is wrong and should not be tolerated by anyone,” Thomas said. Encourage them to inform you, teachers or other supervising adults when situations arise that make them feel uncomfortable, she said.

Make sure they know “it is the other person’s problem, not theirs,” she said.

She said parents and kids should actively work to erase vestiges of racism.

Write letters, contact elected officials, run for office or vote. Overt racism is slowly disappearing. The next step is to make sure that subtle racism follows,” she said. “Those children affected at the pool should be able to protest at the site peacefully. It may prove cathartic.”

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Jackson Had Long History With Estate Executor, Branca

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A week after Michael Jackson died, his longtime lawyer and friend, John Branca, arrived at a meeting with the singer's family. He carried the pop star's will, and with it, the news on who would benefit from the King of Pop's estate.

"It was very difficult," Branca recalled. "There were a lot of family members there, his sisters and most of the brothers and his mother, Katherine."

He told them three things: Katherine would be guardian of Michael's three children and receive 40 percent of the estate. The children would also receive 40 percent. The remaining 20 percent would go to unspecified charities to benefit children.

"They applauded three times when they were told who got the property," Branca said. "They were thrilled."

It also named Branca as co-executor - meaning that while the money went to the Katherine Jackson and the kids, Branca and music executive John McClain would be in charge of making it.

Katherine Jackson's attorney, L. Londell McMillan, has asserted that she should be given "a seat at the table" in executing deals for the estate. He has also said the family is considering a formal challenge to Branca and McClain, suggesting the two may not be fit to run the estate because of conflicts of interest and other factors. McMillan would not comment Friday on specifics about those objections.

Neither Branca nor McClain is unknown to the Jackson family. During more than 20 years as the pop superstar's lawyer, Branca, 58, was a principal architect of Jackson's financial empire. McClain, a successful young entertainment lawyer, and has represented 28 members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His clients have included the Beach Boys, The Doors, Aerosmith, the Rolling Stones and countless other top rock acts.

Neil Portnow, president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which puts on the Grammy Awards, said Branca has a track record for loyalty to his clients and is "eminently capable" of running Jackson's posthumous business affairs.

"He has the skills, the knowledge, the clout but also the humanity," said Portnow, who has worked with Branca, the outgoing chairman of the Grammys' charitable foundation. "He had a past relationship with Michael, which is so key. He's not a hired gun. He doesn't need this. It's probably somewhat distracting from other things he was doing."

Branca took an early interest in music, and played keyboards in a rock band he formed in high school. Music wasn't his only passion: His uncle is famed Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Ralph Branca, who served up Bobby Thomson's home run that cost the Dodgers the 1951 National League pennant - in what became known as the "shot heard 'round the world."

Branca channeled his interest in music into his legal career, and started out setting up tours for Bob Dylan, George Harrison and Neil Diamond. He represented the Presley estate for a time, but in 1980 his world changed when an intermediary asked him to meet with Michael Jackson, who he says was 20 or 21 at the time.

"(Jackson) said, 'Do I know you?' It was one of those things you have in life where you feel so comfortable with a person you actually feel you do know them."

Branca plays down any conflict with the Jackson family.

"Everything is going to be fine," he said calmly during a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press.

Branca and McClain have already won court approval for a deal that will bring the estate $60 million from a movie made of footage shot during rehearsals for the concerts Jackson was to have performed in London. A coffee-table book also was approved. The two multimillion-dollar projects, including a deal to market Jackson merchandise, have been stalled because of objections from Mrs. Jackson's camp.

"We're approaching the $100 million mark if those two deals in front of the court are approved," said Branca. "That's pretty remarkable - in six weeks as executors, to have brought $100 million into the estate."

When he met a young Michael Jackson in 1980, Branca was already a successful young entertainment lawyer, and has represented 28 members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His clients have included the Beach Boys, The Doors, Aerosmith, the Rolling Stones and countless other top rock acts.

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My Take On The Books “Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, & Breaking Dawn”

Well, I did it. I rented the DVD for “Twilight.” The movie was okay. Not nearly as exciting and inviting as the book … but I’ll let it’s own. I was a bit disappointed with the physical looks of the movie’s interpretation of the gorgeous and supposedly fashionable vampire characters as depicted in the book. But, I was impressed with the character diversity displayed in the movie. Nice Touch. The movie, (no surprise), took poetic license with some of the more significant aspects of the plot, changing the essence of the scene, if you will. I suspect that this was done so that the movie would fall within the 2 hour time limit. However, I really wish that they would have made the movie longer and truer to the book.

I suspect that the changes that the movie producers made, had a lot to do with the fact that they feel many movie goers probably did not read the books. And that the publicity around the movie was enough to inspire people to go to see the movie. For this group of people, I suspect that they enjoyed the movie immensely. Therefore, the changes, for most viewers, would go unnoticed. And the movie producers were probably right.

You see, I think that the majority of people don’t read books enough. (To illustrate this point, how many books do you own and have in your home that are not text books for your kids school work? And/or do you have a library card? Do your kids?). Anyway, I’m sure that another reason for the changes had to do with the movie being able to combine and bring to life the description of many of the events explained in the book. Additionally, the screen version’s portrayal continues the enthusiasm for the sequel, much like Stephenie Meyer did when she wrote the books, without belaboring the point.

So, was the movie compelling enough to make me want to read the remaining 3 books of this 4 book series? No. However, I did read them. Mostly because I am nosy and had to find out how the story ended. And because of this, inquisitive nature of mine. … I found that I enjoyed the last 3 books, “New Moon, Eclipse, & Breaking Dawn”, as much as I did the first one, “Twilight.” The part that held my interest the most was how the relations between Edward and Bella; Bella and Jacob; Edward and Jacob; AND Bella, Jacob, and Edward evolved. By the way, Jacob, a werewolf, becomes Bella’s best friend and love interest too, which creates another variation of inter-species romance. How could this happen when Bella was so in love with Edward? You may be asking yourself? Well, … get this. Edward, a vampire/human and Jacob, a werewolf/human are natural enemies. Both love Bella, a “normal” human. A surprise … Or … just another twist to the same old Romeo and Juliet theme OR a new interpretation of the gorgeous and supposedly fashionable vampire characters. Which have in your home that are not text books for your kids school work? But, the movie’s portrayal continues the enthusiasm for the sequel, much like Stephenie Meyer did when she wrote the books, without belaboring the point.

Now that school is out, I believe kids need to keep up their education, during summer vacation, especially in the areas of reading and math. If you have teenage daughters, who have not read “Twilight,” New Moon, Eclipse, & Breaking Dawn”, you may want to purchase these books, for their summer reading requirement. They are easy to read and I’m sure that they will find them to be quite entertaining.

Something To Think About

The American Cancer Society Charity Runner program is a unique opportunity for runners and walkers to become involved in the fight against cancer while accomplishing the wonderful feat of finishing a long distance event. The 3rd annual American Cancer Society Charity Runner event will be held in Iowa October 18, 2009 at the IMF Des Moines Marathon. Whether you’re an experienced or novice runner/walker you can participate in the Charity Runner program.

By becoming a part of the American Cancer Society’s team, local, national, and international athletes have an opportunity to dedicate their race to the fight against cancer. Participating in the Charity Runner program is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone who has been touched by cancer. Many participants decorate their jersey in honor of cancer survivors, or in memory of those they’ve lost to cancer.

There are many benefits of participating in the Charity Runner program which include:

• Frequent training
• Team support and social events
• In-kind race day amenities, including access to the ACS tent, gear check, masseuses, cheer teams, refreshments and more
• Exclusive American Cancer Society racing shirt
• Personal website

In exchange for these benefits, we ask for your help in funding the fight against cancer. We have set a minimum fundraising goal and will work with you to attain this goal. We work hard to keep program costs low to ensure that every dollar raised goes back to the cause, supporting the life saving mission of the American Cancer Society. For more information about participating in the Charity Runner program at the IMF Des Moines Marathon on October 18, 2009 please contact Lori Schaben at 515-727-6048 or Lori.Schaben@cancer.org.

Runners And Walkers Have Chance To Help Fight Cancer

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Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

A New Creature

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 5:17

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (NLT)

God has handpicked us to be His children. He sees past our outward appearance and focuses on our inward man. He wants us to see, that with Him we can be transformed into “a new creature.” One filled with new energy and power. Our inward condition is important to Him so that is why God is constantly developing, shaping and molding… and moving us to levels in Him.

Being in Christ, means we are “new.” We have a new way of living, thinking and talking. We have been elevated to a new level in God. The old life we use to live is no more! Our inward man has been given a complete overhaul of sorts. God has come in and rearranged our spiritual make up; altered our way of thinking; and He put to an end, things that we may have been doing that went against His word. We should be excited about this newness in God. It has given us a new way of looking at the world around us and everything about it has a deeper meaning. This is not a superficial change that will be gone with the next passing wind. New this is a permanent change that will require us to do and say things that we have never done or said before. These changes are essential to our spiritual growth. If we live a good life with no inward change then we are living a life of doom and destruction.

God has formed us into the “new creatures” that He wants us to be. Our new life in Him gives us a new purpose and perspective. And because of our newness we can now speak with a confidence and boldness that will let others know that an inward change has taken place. A change that is real and permanent. No one will have to wonder who is responsible for the change because….

New Normal: We have been made new in Christ. This not a onetime process, it is constant and never ceases so we need to open our hearts and minds to receive the change and walk in our newness. Let the old life pass away and the new life begins!

Congratulations Elder Shirley and Deacon Gerome on your “Elevation In Him”!

Michelle Harris • Elpis Fellowship

“Growing Together In The Things Of God”

“Seven Seals” For Your Spiritual Diet

By Carolyn Clinton King C., Th.D

As the Fourth Seal is opened Rev. 6:7-8, a “Pale Horse” appears, the Rider of which is “Death.” One should note the Riders of the first three horses are not named as they will be recognized when they appear. Hades (Hades) follows in the wake of “Death” ready to swallow up his victims caused by war and famine. Theologians take note of a pale horse, and the name of him who sat on it was Death. This last rider shows that there will be a tremendous death toll from the dictatorship, war, famine and other calamities described by the previous three horsemen. “Our century has seen hundreds of millions killed by dictators, war, and famine. Yet this will pale in comparison to the death toll coming in the wake of this ultimate dictator. No wonder Jesus said of this time “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. (Matthew 24:21)”

We gather from our test that “power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill: Power is given to the horseman, and given by God. Though all hell is breaking loose on the earth, God is very much in control. He still holds the scroll and opens the seals.” The fifth and sixth seals of the scroll are opened.

“[v.11] The fifth seal brings forth the cry of the martyrs. “Who had been slain for the word of God.” It is probably best to see this as the cry of all martyrs for God’s truth, not merely believers persecuted by the coming world leader, the first horseman of Revelation 6:1-2. And they cried with a loud voice: These souls in heaven cry out for vengeance. We usually don’t think of God’s people crying out for vengeance, but they make their cry to God, and leave the matter with Him. When God’s people are persecuted, He will set it right.

In his study guide on Revelation, David Guzik, reminds us “It was said to them that they should rest a little while longer: These saints are instructed to wait: How long do they wait? It may mean that they wait until the character of the remaining martyrs on earth is perfected and complete. It is the way that you live that makes you a martyr, not the way that you die.”

This writer invites you to open the book for yourself and Be Blessed by the reading. The opening of the sixth seal brings cosmic disruption. Well, that’s all for this time, keep the faith and let us look to the hills from which cometh our help, our help cometh from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth.

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

August 19, 2009

Page 5 • Iowa Bystander

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.

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

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Four remarkable women will be inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 29, at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The event is free and open to the public. It is held in conjunction with Women’s Equality Day, August 26, which commemorates the day in 1920 when American women first obtained the right to vote.

“I am proud to announce that these four extraordinary women are going to be inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame,” said Dr. Jill Olsen, chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. “They symbolize the diversity of Iowa, demonstrating outstanding achievements in the fields of academia, politics, medicine, and civic involvement. Generations of Iowans can look to these remarkable individuals as role models.”

First Lady Mari Culver will present the Hall of Fame awards. The Governor’s Proclamation honoring Women’s Equality Day, August 26 will also be read. A reception will be held for family and friends of the award recipients in the atrium of the State Historical Building. The Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW). Awards will be presented to the recipients by First Lady Mari Culver; Dr. Jill Olsen, ICSW chair; and Sue Mullins, chair of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. The building is accessible to persons with disabilities.

### 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees

**Linda K. Kerber**

Preeminent among historians of her generation, Dr. Linda K. Kerber has devoted her life and career to the empowerment of women through a better understanding of women’s history. The first professor of women’s history at the University of Iowa in 1971, she became a catalyst for transforming the way scholars and students look at the contributions of women to society. As a humanist scholar, Kerber is an authority on American history and women’s studies, achieving international distinction for her contributions to our understanding of gender, citizenship, and the legal and political status of women. Her creative intellect, influential leadership, and invigorating teaching place her at the top of her field. She has received many awards and honors, including becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the United States. She is one of the few scholars to have held the top leadership positions in the three major professional organizations in her field—the American Historical Association, the American Studies Association, and the Organization of American Historians. In addition to her scholarly work, she is a civil rights activist, political advocate, and mentor to countless women. Kerber lives in Iowa City and was born in 1940 in New York.

**Mary E. Kramer**

Mary E. Kramer is a remarkable Iowa leader and citizen. Leadership and support for women have been the hallmarks of her long and diverse career. She has experience as a musician, teacher, wife, mother, volunteer activist, business executive, political leader, and ambassador. Kramer served as an Iowa State Senator for 13 years. During the last seven of those years, she served as presiding officer of the Senate, President of the Iowa Senate. Kramer was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as Chair of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars in 2002. In 2003, the President nominated Kramer to serve as the United States Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, where she served until her retirement in 2008. Previous to that, Kramer spent 18 years at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, joining the company as its first woman officer, first as Vice President of Human Resources, then as Vice President of Community Relations. A former teacher and school administrator in Iowa, Kramer also served as the Personnel Director for Younkers, Inc. Kramer’s leadership, mentoring and negotiation skills have been widely recognized. She is a lifetime member of the Iowa Society for Human Resource Management and was presented the National Society’s highest award in 1996. Throughout the years, through her political, business and volunteer activities, Kramer has been passionate and tireless in supporting women and children, particularly as mentor and coach as well as in providing leadership and support for women in the workplace.

**Adeline Lavonne McCormick–Ohnemus, D.O.**

Dr. Adeline Lavonne McCormick–Ohnemus, an advocate for healthy lifestyle choices and preventative medicine, was a role model and motivator for the rural women she cared for over the 45 years she lived and practiced medicine in Milo. McCormick–Ohnemus put herself through junior college and became a teacher. She then decided to go to Drake University in pre-med and was the only woman in her class at Stilf College of Osteopathy (now Des Moines University) in the 1940s. Through much of her career, her medical practice was adjacent to her home, and on an average day she would care for 40 patients in the office. McCormick–Ohnemus established herself as a dominant force in the Osteopathic profession, supporting her school and hospital, keeping long office hours, driving to nursing homes in Indiana, making house calls and caring for patients in the hospital that was 40 miles away in Des Moines. She did it all with the grace that is being the profession as the care and management of her patients always came first. She never turned away a patient that was unable to pay. McCormick–Ohnemus generously shared both her professional life and well as her personal life with her community, serving as Warren County Medical Examiner, on the Warren County Board of Health, and as a trustee of the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association. After years of exemplary and loyal service to the community of Milo, its community center has been dedicated to her memory. She was born on November 21, 1921 in Lucas County, Iowa and died February 22, 1996.

**Lyn Stinson**

Lyn Stinson has made her adoptive home of Burlington a better place. People in Burlington know that if there is a project that needs done, a problem that needs solved, a person who is in need, or an opportunity to be utilized, Stinson will be there to do it. There are few people in Burlington who have such a profound impact on the community; low-income people, African-Americans, job-seekers, women, children, and future generations all feel the impact of her innovation, tireless spirit, and leadership. During her tenure at Community Action of Southeast Iowa, she developed a Community Food Program, which helped families learn to plant gardens to supplement their food budget, and set up a summer meal program for low-income children. She also founded the Women in Waiting program, a support group for women whose loved one is confined to a nursing home in Dubuque, Iowa and later continued ministry within her religious community as a regional representative and Vice President. Her final years of active ministry were in Hackensack, New Jersey and set up a summer meal program for low-income children. She also founded the Women in Waiting program, a support group for women whose loved one is confined to Fort Madison prison. Stinson has been a leader and member of several state and community boards, including Civil Service Commission, Iowa Workforce Development Commission, NAACP and the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa. Stinson was the only volunteer connecting with Job Corps graduates upon their return to the community. For this, she was named Volunteer of the Year in 2000 by the JACS Region VII, prompting Burlington’s mayor to declare June 14, 2000 as “Lyn Stinson Day.” Stinson was born in Opelika, Alabama.

### 2009 Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Recipient

The Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice will be awarded to Sister Mary McCauley, BVM. This medal, named for the first chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, is awarded to an individual who has made significant contributions to the principles of equality and justice.

**Sister Mary McCauley, BVM**

Sister Mary McCauley, BVM, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin is a Sister of Charity, BVM. During her initial years of ministry she taught at Our Lady of Loreto School in Hempstead, New York and served as principal of St. Thomas in West Hempstead. After nineteen years in education she returned to the Midwest to administer her community’s nursing home in Dubuque, Iowa and later continued ministry within her religious community as a regional representative and Vice President. Her final years of active ministry were in Northeast Iowa where she was the pastoral administrator of three rural parishes: St. Mary’s in McGregor, St. Patrick’s in Monona and St. Bridget’s in Postville. In each of these parishes Sister Mary witnessed to the core values of her Congregation: freedom, education, charity and justice. However, never was she more challenged to fidelity to these values than on May 12, 2008, the day of the now infamous immigration raid in Postville, Iowa, when she found herself offering pastoral presence and support to over 400 devastated and traumatized women, children and men. Since this most memorable and transformative day her focus has been to empower and comfort suffering Hispanic brothers and sisters. Imbued with the mission of her Congregation she has tried to love each one into freedom, helping them to know that they are recognized and honored as persons. Her ongoing commitment to equality and justice impels her to continue her efforts for comprehensive immigration reform to insure that 21st century immigrants have the same opportunities as our immigrant ancestors.
Cannon Brings Faith, Passion, Compassion To Mortuary

Not many people will proudly proclaim a lifelong fascination with death. But William J. Cannon swears he was hooked at first glance. Almost five years old, he watched workers from a funeral home maneuver a gurney laden with his uncle’s covered body down the narrow hallway of his mother’s house.

Mr. William J. Cannon is the proprietor of Cannon Mortuary - 1451 E. Grand Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa. Formerly known within the community as Estes and Son and Nichols Funeral Homes; Mr. Cannon became a partner in the business with Fred Nichols in 2005. He bought the funeral home in October 2007 from Nichols who retired from the business and moved to Tennessee. Cannon said the full name of his business is G M Cannon Mortuary, named after his grandparents – “G” for his grandfather “George”, and “M” for his grandmother, McCeil – who helped raise him.

At first glance, Cannon, dressed in a pinstriped light gray suit with a burgundy, gray and black tie, starched white shirt, vest, and well-shined light gray shoes. Looks more like the banker he briefly flirted with before becoming an expert on death. But, in his fourth year as a state-licensed funeral director; he’s signed many death certificates and is no longer surprised at all the ways life’s fabric can come undone. Mr. Cannon feels “everyone from the moment they stop taking breaths, deserves a service of ceremony and dignity.” And he has adopted the slogan “Cannon Cares” as a stamp on his professional services.

Cannon’s mother, Carolyn King, remembers that as a child William would take his sister’s Cabbage Patch dolls and stage mock funerals in the living room; the cardboard Neiman Marcus boxes. That had been shipped to his grandmother, were used as his caskets. “He’d make little programs and passed them out, we’d cry and he’d preach the funeral as well and make us all happy again.” King said William’s late grandmother, a respected member of the community took her grandson to “every funeral in town at a young age” and that’s how William J. Cannon met Mr. John M. Estes, Jr. a funeral home owner/director.

Estes called Cannon “Billy” and let the boy hang around his funeral home on Forest. By high school Cannon was spending nearly every day there with the “crew.” He would do various tasks such as: washing, and vacuuming Nichol’s limousines, the hearse, and chapel. Cannon remembers he was always pestering the workers to show him what transpired with the “dead folk” in the embalming room. Finally, he was allowed a peek. He said, “He remembers strong fumes, stainless steel and a form covered by a white sheet.” The experience didn’t scare him away. When he was a 10th grader at North High School he was invited to assist on his first removal in a home of a human body. Soon death calls were a regular part of Cannon’s high school life.

After graduating from North, Cannon ended up at Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Decatur, Georgia, where his classes included anatomy, pathology, restorative art, embalming, microbiology, chemistry, sociology, psychology, mortuary law, accounting and grief counseling to name a few. William worked for Alfonso Dawson Mortuary, Pollard and Gregory B. Levett Funeral Homes in Atlanta and Decatur, Georgia. He graduated in February 2001, passed the Nation Funeral Service Examine Boards, planning to return home and work as a licensed funeral director. But when he found Iowa required an additional 31 credit hours of college. Cannon began drifting away from his childhood dream.

He got married, moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas and worked for Brown Funeral Home. Cannon recalls his desires to move back to Des Moines from Pine Bluff to pursue finishing his 31 credit hours and becoming an entrepreneur of a funeral home. He worked for Bankers Trust and Wells Fargo Banks, the kinds of jobs he could leave at the end of the shift. But “his inner gift” kept drawing him back. Cannon graduated from Upper Iowa University with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology. On September 16, 2006 he was licensed as a funeral director in the state of Iowa.

Although young and energetic, Cannon has the wisdom of someone who spent years learning his trade at the feet of an industry master, and the Estes tradition is a long time black-owned business in the community which is continuing to thrive.

Because of William’s love for Christ, Cannon’s services are as much to the living as it is to the dead. Cannon feels the funeral service is actually for the living. It’s an opportunity for the living to know that to be united with Christ is to be reunited with their loved one. Christ can help fill that void and look down with His infinite wisdom and wrap His loving arms around us all. Cannon said, “He finds fulfillment running the funeral home and it has taught him to never take life for granted.” He can be reached at 244-5253.
The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is currently working to determine the key barriers or impediments to fair housing in Iowa and the most effective ways of addressing these challenges. Fair housing means all persons have equal opportunity to be considered for rental units, purchase of property, housing loans, property insurance, or other housing services without regard for race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, mental disability, physical disability, and familial status (presence of children).

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission will be conducting an online survey, holding public forums in four communities around the state, and offering the survey at its booth in the Varied Industries Building at the Iowa State Fair. The online survey can be accessed via the link on the Iowa Civil Rights Commission’s website: www.state.ia.us/government/crc. This short, five-minute survey for Iowa residents only will be available through September 1, 2009. Hard copies of the surveys will be available at the hearings in both English and Spanish. Public hearings will be available through September 1, 2009.

The results of the survey and public hearings will be tabulated and placed on the Iowa Civil Rights Commission website, along with the full report of the 2009 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in Iowa. The Commission has been contracted by the Iowa Department of Economic Development to meet this federal requirement to determine the status of fair housing and to recommend ways to address any identified areas of concern. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission also contracts with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to receive and resolve cases of housing discrimination and to conduct education and outreach to prevent discrimination.

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission To Assess The Status Of Fair Housing In Iowa

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

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

Guidelines For Submitting Copy: Iowa Bystander is published weekly. Copy must be typed. Editorials, news items and press releases should be 600 words or less. Public service announcements, thank you notes, etc. should be 300 words or less. All copy is subject to the editorial policy of Iowa Bystander.

Pictures submitted with articles become the property of Iowa Bystander unless otherwise specified at the time of submission. All photos should clearly identify those in the picture, their order and the relevance of the photo.

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

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Revival Time: All Roads Lead To Pilgrim

Come join us in worship for our 2009 Revival. All roads lead to Pilgrim August 25 - August 27th.

Guest Revivalist is Dr. R. Jones Moore Sr., a native of Shreveport, Louisiana. He is currently the proud and esteemed pastor of the Sunrise Baptist Church. Dr. Moore is a born again believer, a man of God who has been blessed with a tremendous gift. He is a spiritual and humble man who is dedicated to God. Dr. Moore epitomizes the true meaning of the scripture “Preach the Word; be in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.” II Timothy 4:2

“God revealed Dr. Moore’s purpose to him at the tender age of five. He preached his first sermon and was then licensed to preach at the age of fifteen. He was ordained as a minister of the gospel at the age of eighteen and accepted his first appointment as pastor at White Rose Baptist Church in Springhill, LA.

Dr. Moore has been sharing his passion for preaching for the last 2 years and has been a pastor for 25 years. Pastor Moore has preached all over the world including such places as Germany, France and Switzerland. He has received numerous Humanitarian Awards for his contributions in community service.

Pastor Moore was selected by the renowned Dr. C.A.W. Clark to preach to his congregation during his illness. He has lectured at several universities across the Ark-La-Tex, including East Texas Baptist University, Jarvis and Southwestern University. Dr. Moore organized the Shreveport Ministers’ Conference, a group comprised of ministers from all denominations and races. In 2001 he joined the Shreveport Police Pastors Program where he served as Assistant Chaplain.

Dr. Moore is a dynamic preacher, teacher, lecturer, humanitarian, pastor, and devoted, humble servant of God. He is always mindful to give God all the praise.

We are blessed to have him here in the city of Des Moines at the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, 1732 Walker Street where the Reverend W.J. Cannon is Pastor.

Please come out and be blessed by the preached Word of God nightly at 6:30 p.m.

Various Pastors and Choirs will be our special guest, Everyone is welcome and for more information call 262-6203.

Iowa Bystander Articles

Leading Iowans in caring for our natural resources

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EEO/AA
DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A woman who became known for her villainous ways on reality TV is entering an Ohio seminary to study for the ministry.

Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth, known for her in-your-face antics on mogul Donald Trump’s “The Apprentice” and other reality shows, is scheduled to begin her studies at United Theological Seminary in Dayton on Monday, the Dayton Daily News reported.

Ivan Hicks, the school’s associate dean for African-American studies, says Omarosa will spend about two years pursuing a doctor of ministry degree.

Hicks says the Youngstown, Ohio, native has a heart for Christian ministry and has done work on behalf of the homeless and the poor in Haiti.

He says Omarosa’s reputation for both good and bad will help her as a minister, because people will relate to her.

A Taste Of History At The Iowa State Fair

During the 2009 Iowa State Fair through August 23, school children have the opportunity to live a little history when they step into the vintage classroom at Country School in Heritage Village on the Fairgrounds. 

Retired school teacher Diana Darge recreates the school experience of yesteryear for them by using books and teaching methods from the past. She leads classes daily during the Fair, from 9 a.m. until noon. For the second year in a row, Mrs. Clark’s Foods is sponsoring the heritage Country School, which helps bring history alive for young fair-goers.

The retro school day experience begins with taking attendance and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Students experience lessons in the way they were conducted in one-room schoolhouses, with reading and arithmetic classes, as well as a spelling bee. Vintage recess games include tug-of-war andunny sack races.

Originally located southeast of Indianapolis, The Country School moved to Heritage Village at the Fairgrounds 40 years ago. Its authentic school furnishings and traditional school bell help create a living history experience for today’s students.

Each year, Diana Darge invites school principals to bring students out for a three-hour schoolhouse experience during the Iowa State Fair. By sponsoring the attraction, Mrs. Clark’s Foods helps preserve the 1900s heritage of the Iowa State Fair Country School—Old North Lincoln School. Since Mrs. Darge began teaching at the school, the program has expanded from two participating area schools to eight schools. Schools interested in taking part in future programs can contact Iowa State Fair special events director Tonya Cook at 515-262-3111, tcook@iowastatefair.org.

Children and their families can also get a taste of tradition at the Mrs. Clark’s Foods booth during the Fair and at Elwell Center, with juice samples available 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. throughout the Fair. A selection of Mrs. Clark’s Foods pourable salad dressings will be available for sampling at Elwell Center at the Fair from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. Mrs. Clark’s Foods will give away 25,000 reusable grocery totes (one per family) during the Iowa State Fair.

Iowa Bystander Church Directory

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

Buras United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street • DSM, 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883
Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Dr. Willy L. Mafuta
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1552 E. Maple Street • DSM, 50316
Phone: 515-262-1931
Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.

Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1338-9th Street • DSM, 50314
Phone: 515-280-9163
Pastor: Rev. Bobby Young
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 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.

Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, 50316
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marilyn T. Perkins, Sr.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath (Sunday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Saturday Radio Ministry: 9:00 a.m., Praise 940 AM

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Address: E.Univ. & McCormick
Phone: 262-1785
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

To get your church in our directory call Jon at 515-770-1218!
Test Scores Up For Students, But African Americans Lag

In the 11th grade, reading results slipped in every racial group except Hispanics, who saw an increase of 9 percentage points, to 57.7 percent. “We cannot afford to lose any one of these students,” Jeffrey said Wednesday at an annual conference of Iowa school administrators in Des Moines. Fourth-graders took the biggest strides. The percentage of those students who showed a basic grasp of reading rose to 81.8 percent from 77.5 percent the year before.

The news wasn’t so bright when scores were broken down by race and ethnicity. Fifty-three percent of Hispanics and 51.1 percent of blacks showed a basic grasp of reading in eighth grade. Although those results were higher than the year before, they still lagged far behind the 78.1 percent of white eighth-graders who were proficient.

“It is something not tolerable for us as a school system,” Jeffrey said. Children take the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills in kindergarten through eighth grade. High school students take the Iowa Tests of Educational Development.

The test is used to hold schools accountable for student progress under the No Child Left Behind law. Jeffrey said success must begin with lessons that go beyond the basics. She urged school administrators to abandon state classroom lectures, which she said fall flat to a generation addicted to iPods, cell phones and Facebook.

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When broken down by race and ethnicity, Hispanics and African-Americans eighth-graders improved in reading but still lagged behind white students.

State Senate News
State Senator Jack Hatch

Health Care Coverage
Commission to focus on affordable insurance for all
Representative Mark Smith of Marshalltown and I recently announced the members of the newly established Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission.

I’m proud that Iowa is well on its way to becoming the first state in the nation where every child has quality, affordable health care. This new commission will continue that work by finding a way to make affordable health insurance available to adult Iowans as well.

Each commissioner brings a unique perspective that will help us tackle the difficult issues of uninsured and underinsured adults.

As a group, they’ll prepare a proposal for a health insurance plan for all uninsured adult Iowans by July 1, 2010. It could be a private plan, a public plan or some combination.

The commission will be chaired by Dr. David Carlyle, a family doctor with the McFarland Clinic in Ames. The vice-chair is Ted Williams, a small business owner from Des Moines.

Members of the commission include:
- Large employer representative: Diane Crookham-Johnson, Musco Corporation
- Iowa insurer representative: Mike Abbott, American Enterprise Group
- Health underwriter representative: Joe Teeling, Bearence Management Group
- Health care provider: David Carlyle, Ames
- Family physician: Lisa Grossman, AFSCME
- Consumer representing pre-Medicare population: Bruce Koepp
- Consumer representing middle-income adults and families: Betty Ahrens
- Nonprofit Representative: Tim Stiles, United Way of Siouxland
- Independent insurance agents representative: Jennifer Browne, Benefit Source, Inc.

The Commission’s first meeting will be September 9 at the State Capitol.

Additional Information
This is a legislative update from Senator Jack Hatch representing central Des Moines. For newsletters, photos and further information, go to www.iowasenatedemocrats.org/hatch.

To contact Senator Hatch when the Legislature is not in session e-mail him at jack@hatchdevolution.com or call him at home at 515-243-2033.

Senator Jack Hatch is an Assistant Democratic Leader and chair of the Health & Human Services Budget Subcommittee. He also serves on the Economic Growth, Human Resources, State Government, Labor & Business Relations, and Appropriations committees.

The #1 Ranked Re-entry Program in the United States is looking for dedicated, compassionate and qualified individuals for Wraparound Specialist positions. This position entails working with offenders released from various institutions around the State of Iowa. Under general supervision, you will be performing program activities for the re-entry project. The wraparound workers will be responsible for doing assessment of inmates needs prior to parole. Prospective employees will need to have some knowledge of the use of Assessment tools and will be trained on the intake process, offender service needs, and how to properly assess potential participants.

This process is to ensure that housing, substance abuse, mental health, social service, education and employment needs of clients are met. You must have the ability to represent Spectrum and perform duties in a professional, responsible and trustworthy manner, establish contacts, and develop community partners among service providers and apply best practice standards as they relate to programs, services and follow-up.

Minimum requirements: Bachelor’s degree in social work, education, counseling public health or related area; or any equivalent combination of education and experience, which provides the required knowledge and abilities. Salary is commensurate to workforce industry.

Ex-Offenders are welcome to apply: www.spectrumresourcesdsm.com

Interested parties should contact:
Ericka Wiley, VP of Operations at gwiley.spectrum@ymail.com or 515/281-9630 Allen Spencer, VP of Programs at asab23spencer@yahoo.com or 515-288-1023.

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6:00 - 7:30pm
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Free Clinics of Iowa

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DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Iowa’s top education official says students are doing better on math and reading tests, but gaps remain between white students and minorities.

Judy Jeffrey, director of the Iowa Department of Education, said a recent report shows that the share of Iowa fourth-, eighth- and 11th graders who scored “proficient” on 2008-09 state tests jumped from the year before in every overall category except 11th-grade reading.

When broken down by race and ethnicity, Hispanics and African-Americans eighth-graders improved in reading but still lagged behind white students.

In the 11th grade, reading results slipped in every racial group except Hispanics, who saw an increase of 9 percentage points, to 57.7 percent. “We cannot afford to lose any one of these students,” Jeffrey said Wednesday at an annual conference of Iowa school administrators in Des Moines.

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The test is used to hold schools accountable for student progress under the No Child Left Behind law. Jeffrey said success must begin with lessons that go beyond the basics. She urged school administrators to abandon state classroom lectures, which she said fall flat to a generation addicted to iPods, cell phones and Facebook.

“Multitasking and interacting with others is their norm, but then consider them walking across the threshold of our classroom doors,” she said. “My question is, are we keeping pace?”
DMPS Announces Teaching American History Grant

Des Moines Public Schools is holding a kick-off event to celebrate the district’s $1.5 million Project Clio Teaching American History grant, which is designed to improve student achievement through high quality-history instruction over a five-year period. Middle and high school social science and history teachers and the Teaching American History partner organizations have been invited to attend.

The event will be held on Tuesday, August 25 at the State Historical Building, 600 East Locust Street. The lecture begins at 2:00 p.m. and a reception will follow.

Professor Jeremi Suri, E. Gordon Fox Professor of History, University of Wisconsin, will be the guest lecturer on “The Cold War – Conflict and Compromise.” Professor Suri is the author of three books on contemporary politics and foreign policy. His research and teaching have received numerous prizes. In 2007 Smithsonian Magazine named him one of America’s “Top Young Innovators” in the Arts and Sciences.

The Teaching American History Grant program is a discretionary grant program funded under Title II-C, Subpart 4 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Serving as partners for the project are the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Iowa State University, the Center for Iowa Studies at Des Moines Area Community College, the State Historical Society of Iowa, Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center, and Living History Farms.

“Never has there been such a significant investment in history education in the state of Iowa,” said David Johns, humanities curriculum coordinator for Des Moines Public Schools. “Access to world-class historians and educators like Professor Suri will be the key to making history more relevant, exciting and engaging for our students.”

Back 2 School Bash To Be Held In DSM

More than 500 students in the Des Moines area will attend their first day of class, prepared with supplies, thanks to the Back 2 School Bash.

The 4th Annual Back 2 School Bash, an event providing free school supplies to students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade in the Des Moines area, will take place on Sunday, August 23, 2009 from 2 – 5 p.m. at the John R. Grubb YMCA (1611 11th Street). The event also features a free raffle contest. One lucky family will walk away with a vacation package giveaway valued at $5,000 courtesy of Eatravel. One lucky high school student will win a laptop.

The Bash, founded in 2005, by Drake University graduates Shekinah Young and Deidre Howard will also feature a talent show, basketball tournament, carnival, food vendors and information from various community organizations.

“The Back 2 School Bash is all about bridging the gap between students and the community. We understand that education will help the students achieve their goals and we believe this event will give them a head start,” said Howard.

Confirmed sponsors for the event include: ING, John R. Grubb YMCA, Cornerstone Family Church, Coalition of Black Students of Drake University, Drake University President David Maxwell, University of Northern Iowa, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alliance of Black Telecommunications Professionals, NAACP Youth Council, Papa John’s, Sodexo Catering Services and others.

Students must be present to receive school supplies and the event is presented at no charge to participants.

For more information, contact: Deidre Howard at 918-260-4264.
By Jonathan R. Narcisse

As a lifelong Iowan I feel fortunate to live in this state. What makes Iowa a great place to live? I believe it is first and foremost the goodness of our people. And being a kind and caring people we have inherently trusted in the decency of others, especially our government officials. Unfortunately the leaders in whom we have placed our trust, particularly at the state level, have let us down. Our political parties have also embraced an out-of-date game plan that rewards special, vested and powerful interests without regard for what is best for Iowa and Iowans.

Now, if you are happy with the status quo, stop here. Go do something more productive with your time. If, however, you believe as I do, that Iowa is a state worth fighting for, that Iowa values are worth defending, continue.

Core Governance Principles

Thomas Paine said “That government is best which governs least.” I believe there is absolutely a role government must play in Iowa. For example, the state must protect the innocent, punish the guilty, resolve disputes and enforce contracts. Government in Iowa, however, has become more preoccupied with its own perpetuation than with serving its clients – citizens and taxpayers.

This must change! Every government bureaucracy that exists, every division, every bureau, every title, every staff position, every funded program, every appropriation and every expenditure must be subordinate to these considerations:

• Principle One: Is it necessary for government to do this?
• Principle Two: Is it outcome and results oriented?
• Principle Three: Is it accountable to the public?
• Principle Four: Is it competently staffed, efficient and effective?
• Principle Five: Is it responsive but not reactionary?
• Principle Six: Is it impartial and consistent?

Overarching Principle: Government must be braced by personal responsibility.

While government exists to do for the people what they otherwise cannot do for themselves, e.g., police or fire protection, government must not absolve the public of personal responsibility.

Good government can only exist in partnership with a public held accountable for individual or collective decisions. Government must not deprive the public of precious liberties nor of earned consequences.

Instead government must accept that it is finite and limited by the very strict structure, staffing and funding by which it is defined.

Non-governmental remedies must be recognized, and advanced, as valid arbiters of personal choice rather than government interventions, be it the fires of hell earned with a sinful life, an oxygen tank earned with a smoking addiction, or type II diabetes earned by sucking down fat burgers, fries and quarts of diet soda daily.

In the final analysis, whether the state should or shouldn’t govern these matters is moot. It is not competent, staffed nor structured to consistently and impartially prevent or control poor personal choices.

To the degree that bad decisions impede or transgress against the rights and liberties of others, such as drinking and driving, those choices must be the province of the state. To the extent bad choices affect primarily the individual, government should neither manage that person’s activities nor pay the costs of the acquired consequences.

Finally, Iowans have well earned their reputation for being a wholesome people. Our state is the embodiment of excellence, ingenuity, and exceptional work ethic. We have good schools, safe streets, caring neighbors and a set of values – Iowa values – that set us apart.

We are an Iowa worth fighting for!