Pastor W. J. Cannon’s Anniversary Celebration Schedule Announced

There will be a musical drama and presentation on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at the Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1732 Walker Street at 5:00 p.m. in celebration of Pastor W. J. Cannon Anniversary.

Special guests include “The Men of Unity” with Bro. Greg Willis; Sister Ebonee Shade, soloist; a brief drama “Flight 1212”; The Citywide Youth Choir under the direction of Elder Mose Rutues & Min. Stacie Nichols and Restoration and Prayze under the Direction of Deacon Barry Jones.

Pre-Anniversary services will start on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Bishop E.L. Dillard, Pastor of New Beginnings and his choir will be special guest at 6:30 p.m.

Then a late night preaching service with food and fellowship will begin at 9:30 p.m. Pastor C.C. Wright of the New Birth Baptist Church will be one of the preachers along with an All Male Ministers Chorus.

Then on Sunday, December 13, 2009 anniversary day will begin. Special guests for the 11:00a.m. worship service will be Pastor Stephen Long, and his congregation and choir from Valley Community Church.

At 4:00 p.m. the Union Missionary Baptist Church services will be held with Reverend Dr. Henry I. Thomas preaching the Word. Pastor Irvin Lewis, Sr., will be the worship leader.

Various Pastors and Choirs have been asked to be on program and bring words of encouragement.

Sis. Ericka Wiley, Pastor’s Aid Chair, anniversary committee members Deacon Michael Booker, Sis. Arlene Bright, Reverend Dr. Carolyn King, Sis. Gussa Harris and the members of the Pilgrim Baptist Church.
greater outcomes, such as dropping out or adoption are black males.

State and nonprofit agencies are encouraging minority families to consider adoption, as more black and mixed race children are in need of homes.

In November is National Adoption Month, designed to draw attention to children who are awaiting adoption after their parents either gave up or lost parental rights.

In fiscal year 2008, 582 Louisiana children were adopted from foster care - 63 percent of them white and 37 percent black. As of June, about 300 children in state custody were available for adoption - 40 percent white and 60 percent black.

The state Department of Social Services takes children into custody because of abuse or neglect. They are kept in foster care, a temporary home, until the state can decide whether the child can be returned to their home.

If the child cannot return home, the state seeks the termination of parental rights and the child is available for adoption.

Federal law now lets the state place children with relatives without terminating rights, said Kaaren Hebert, DSS's assistant secretary of the Office of Community Services.

"We know that kids placed with family members do better than if they have to be placed with strangers," she said.

Hebert's office oversees the state's foster care and adoption programs.

Adoption officials say that a disproportionate number of children up for adoption are black males.

In Louisiana, statistics show that black males are generally more susceptible to negative outcomes, such as dropping out of high school and incarceration.

"The state Department of Social Services is encouraging families to adopt children of color, as black and mixed race children are in need of homes."

Federal data shows that in some states, including Louisiana, the number of black children adopted from foster care is on a steady decline.

Ledesma said there have not been scientific studies on the change but there are some theories, such as the hurdle of encouraging white families to adopt children of another race, she said.

But Ledesma and Janice Allen with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge said the people's ideas of a "traditional" family are changing and more families are looking beyond race.

"We have a mixed race president," Allen said. "People are moving forward and more global thinking."

Changing the mindset and culture of black families can be equally challenging, parents and officials said.

Sonja Patton said black communities have an unofficial version of foster care, with people caring for relatives or other people's children like their own without state support.

"But they don't give the child that sense of permanency," Patton said.

Allen said informal placements like that could face legal complications if something goes wrong with the child or family.

A formalized adoption is a much safer and more stable plan for the child," Allen said.

The Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute (GDMLI) class has more class members than ever before. Sixty Greater Des Moines professionals have been selected to participate in the GDMLI Class of 2009-2010.

GDMLI is Central Iowa's premier leadership development organization.

Through community wide education and service projects, GDMLI connects, inspires, challenges and develops community leaders to greater awareness, commitment and involvement to improve the overall quality of life in our community. Since 1982, more than 1,500 leaders have graduated from GDMLI.
SUCCESS Program Wins Crystal Star Award

The SUCCESS Program of the Des Moines Public Schools recently received the prestigious 2009 National Dropout Prevention Center/Network’s Crystal Star Program Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention.

Annually, the NDPC/N recognizes three programs from across the country with a Crystal Star Award of Excellence for significant contributions to the advancement of the mission of the NDPC/N. Programs must have been in existence for at least three years, have an evaluation component showing clear evidence of accomplishments contributing to effective dropout prevention strategies and work, and have implemented at least five of the 15 effective strategies of the NDPC/N.

“Strategies implemented by the SUCCESS Program include school-community collaboration, safe learning environments, family engagement, early literacy development, mentoring/buddying, and after school and summer opportunities,” said Margaret Jensen Connet, SUCCESS Program manager. “But the panel of judges was most impressed with our family engagement and year-round programming, and the outcomes the program has achieved.”

About SUCCESS

The SUCCESS Program is a school-based youth services program offered year-round in 30 schools for families with children prenatal through age 20. Research-based services include intensive case management, drug and violence prevention, parenting education, and after school and summer programs.

Forty-two case managers provide support for children and families in the areas of education, employment, mental health, health, substance abuse, mentoring, basic needs and recreation. The program’s goal is to prepare children to enter school ready to learn, succeed in school, and graduate.

Most recently, 95 percent of H.S. students served by the program stayed in school in the SUCCESS Program. The SUCCESS Program was instrumental in the Des Moines Public Schools’ Reach Out to Dropouts re-engagement effort that brought back 150 students who had dropped out of school the prior year.

About NDPC/N

Located at Clemson University in Clemson, SC, the mission of the NDPC/N is to increase high school graduation rates through research and evidence-based solutions.

American Diabetes Association Introduces “Audacious” Approach

November was American Diabetes Month, a time to communicate the seriousness of diabetes and the importance of diabetes prevention and control. For years, the American Diabetes Association has used this month as an opportunity to raise awareness of the disease and its serious complications.

However, this year, the organization took a bolder, more audacious approach. With nearly 24 million children and adults in the United States living with diabetes, and an additional 57 million Americans at risk, simple awareness will no longer suffice. One out of every three children born today will face a future with diabetes if current trends continue. Diabetes is not merely a condition. It is an epidemic disease. Drastic action is needed, and a new hope is required.

So, this November the American Diabetes Association officially launched a national movement to Stop Diabetes®... help us confront it, fight it, and most importantly, stop it.

Key Messages

· Starting with American Diabetes Month, the American Diabetes Association encouraged people across the country to take the pledge to Stop Diabetes®.

· Stop Diabetes will be a movement. A movement is an idea that gains momentum one person at a time.

· Stopping Diabetes will take courage, hope, and commitment.

· It will also take action.

· Join the American Diabetes Association and help the Stop Diabetes movement by:
  o Sharing: Inspire others to join the movement by sharing your personal story. Visit stopdiabetes.com and join us on Facebook and Twitter to learn about all the exciting ways to be a part of the Stop Diabetes movement. Invite your family, friends, and co-workers to join this effort as well.

  o Acting: Whether you want to run, walk, bike or simply tell a friend, there will be many ways to help us build momentum for the Stop Diabetes movement.

  o Learning: The American Diabetes Association has many resources throughout the country to help Stop Diabetes. If you, or a loved one, already have diabetes or are at risk for developing it, we can provide medical, lifestyle and motivational information to prevent this disease from taking control of your life and the lives of those around you.

  o Giving: Sign up with your local American Diabetes Association office to help raise money for diabetes research, federal and state advocacy and public education.

· Prevalence

  o Nearly 24 million people have type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

  o Another 57 million people have pre-diabetes and are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

  o One out of every three children will face a future with diabetes if current trends continue.

· The Toll on Health

  o The death rate from diabetes continues to climb. Since 1987, the death rate due to diabetes has increased by 45%, while the death rates due to cancer, heart disease, and stroke have declined.

  o About 60-70% of people with diabetes have mild to severe forms of nerve damage that could result in pain in the feet or hands, slowed digestion, sexual dysfunction, and other nerve problems.

  o The rate of amputation for people with diabetes is 10 times higher than for people without diabetes.

· Cost of Diabetes

  o The total national cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States is $174 billion.

  o Direct medical costs reach $116 billion, and the average medical expenditure among people with diabetes is 2.3 times higher than those without the disease.

  o Indirect costs amount to $58 billion (disability, work loss, premature mortality).

  o The cost of caring for someone with diabetes is $1 out of every $5 in total healthcare costs.

· For more information in English and Spanish call 1-800-DIABETES or visit www.diabetes.org. Also, please follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AmericanDiabetesAssociation) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/AmDiabetesAssn).
From Senator Matt McCoy

Good habits, new ideas can help Iowa recover from national recession

The deepening national recession is hitting many Iowa families and businesses, and there is likely to be more distressing news in the coming weeks and months. That’s why we’re working to help Iowans recover in the short term while laying the foundation for long-term prosperity.

At the state level, we’ve expanded our commitment to creating good-paying jobs, making it easier for laid-off workers to get the training they need, and ensuring that more Iowans have access to affordable health care.

We’ve also put a premium on fiscal responsibility—and there are some good signs that those efforts are paying off. According to a new national study by the Pew Center for the States, Iowa is tied for second place nationally when it comes to fiscal strength.

The report—“Beyond California: States in Fiscal Peril”—rates Iowa and other states on foreclosure rates, joblessness, loss of state revenue, state budget gaps, balanced budgets, and money-management practices. Iowa scored high in these areas, behind only Wyoming. To read the entire report, go to www.pewcenteronthestates.org and click on “Beyond California: States in Fiscal Peril.”

So we are making progress—but there’s still much to be done to ensure Iowa recovers from the national recession. That’s why I’m more committed than ever to listening to my constituents and others interested in building a strong future for our state, responsibly balancing the state budget, expanding job creation and improving our quality of life.

I appreciate all who’ve taken the time to share their ideas with me, including a local group of federal retirees, superintendents from school districts across the state, those who attended my recent town hall meeting at the Central Library, and everyone who has e-mailed me with suggestions for making Iowa a better place.

During these tough economic times, let’s keep working together to build a stronger future for all Iowans. If you have concerns or ideas you’d like share, call me at home at 515-274-0561 or e-mail me at real mccoy@me.com.

Additional Information

This is a legislative update from Senator Matt McCoy, representing western and southern portions of Des Moines. For newsletters, photos and further information, go to www.iowastatedemocrats.org/mccoy.

To contact Senator McCoy when the Legislature is not in session, call him at home at 515-274-0561. E-mail him at real mccoy@me.com. Senator Matt McCoy is chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure Budget Subcommittee and vice-chair of the Ways & Means and Appropriations Committees. He also serves on the Commerce, Local Government, and Transportation committees.

Letter To The Editor:

Sekou Jackson (pictured) says Blacks are turning from Christianity to Islam, in Jesse Washington’s Nov 11 AP story, because “When someone comes to you with a message that everyone is equal, that the only difference is the deeds that they do, of course people who have been oppressed will embrace that message. It’s a message of fairness.”

Tell that to the thousands of refugees here in Des Moines driven out of Sudan by the “fair, equal” genocide of Khartoum’s Muslim leaders. They “equally” bomb, burn, poison wells, and enslave captives among Darfur Muslims for a few years, as they have Southern Christians for a few decades. Is it because the natives of the West and South are darker than Khartoum’s Arab leaders?

Washington: “African-Americans...say they are attracted by Islam’s emphasis on equality, discipline and family.”

Equality? Hmm. Discipline? Well, I’ll grant you that, after watching thousands in Mecca whipping their own backs! Family? With three permanent wives, “one night wives” by saying “I divorce thee” three times the next morning, the Imam telling husbands the size stick to use to beat their wives, (Surah 4:34), and the “honor killings” of sons and daughters who leave Islam, how much of the family survives?

Sekou says, “For African-Americans...Christianity...is[s] the religion that legitimized their slavery.”

Unsubstantiated generalities like this can cost us Freedom. The only way to resolve whether the Bible is a better foe of slavery and friend of fairness than the Koran is to compare the two.

Where in the Bible justifies anything like the slavery of American history’s dark side? Ex 21:6 says capturing and enslaving a free man was a capital offense! Any pressing of anyone into work had to be by due process of law, with the same laws applying equally to everybody. Ex 12:49. Lev 25:47 illustrates this, with the example of a man “selling himself”, the way movie stars, athletes, and home owners today sign multi-year contracts. Ex 21:26 explains that if the employer causes his worker permanent injury, the worker is free of his contract.

Exodus 21:2 gives 6 years as the maximum length of any such obligation, although prisoners of war could be indentured until the next “jubilee” (which God wanted observed every 50 years, Lev 25).


By contrast, here is one of the last Surahs written, which therefore “abrogates” (Surah 2:106) contradictory earlier Surahs. “9.5 So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them; surely God is Forgiving, Merciful.”

“Idolaters” means Christians who believe the Trinity, which Surah 4:171 calls worship of three gods. The “poor-rate” is an unimaginable tax paid in Muslim countries by surviving Christians, along with job discrimination rivaling any tolerated during America’s darkest days. Christian movements ended slavery in the West a century and a half ago, but slaves are still captured in Muslim Sudan and sold in other Muslim nations.

My skin may not be black, but my heart is the same color as yours. It yearns for hearts who sincerely love Godly virtues like equality, family, fairness, and Freedom, but who are deceived into seeking them not in the Bible, where they are not found.

Unspeakable atrocities are happening in Darfur, and Christians enable this deception by thinking it honorable to refrain from “offending” unbelievers by publicly quoting the Scriptures from which these virtues spring. We who know better must not remain silent while those who we are loved from the virtues they love.

Dave Leach

Madison County Development Group Joines Greater DSM Partnership

The Madison County Development Group has joined the Greater Des Moines Partnership to join the economic development effort in the region. Madison County is the fourth-fastest growing county in the state of Iowa.

“With the addition of this organization to the Partnership, we’re confident that the group will be a valuable regional partner,” said Martha Willits, President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. “The Madison County Group is well positioned for a successful future.”

Doyle Scott has recently been named Executive Director. Scott is an Iowa native and most recently was Superintendent of Winterset Community School District for the past six years.
Elpis Fellowship — Weekly Meditation

“The Treasure”

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 7:1-3 NLT • Verse of Concentration: Proverbs 7:1
“Follow my advice, my son; always treasure my commands.”

In the life of a believer, the Word of God is very precious! It’s more precious than silver or gold. The Word navigates us through this world in which we live...its value is inexpressible. God’s word, gives us so much that we’d never be able to put a price on it. For example, “it gives us hope in hopeless worlds, direction when we don’t know where to go, and it restores and refreshes us, when life has beaten us down.” This treasure was given to us by God, because He knew what we would face in this ugly, and sometimes cruel world.

Some may view the Word as strict commands, rules or laws that keep us confined. But it’s quite the opposite! The Word frees us to be what God has called us to be. God has given us these commandments so that we may have a long and fruitful life. A life that is filled with His love, peace and joy, among other benefits the Word says we are privy to. His promises ensure that the rewards, even greater treasures, await us in heaven. All we have to do is follow the commands of our Almighty Father.

In this scripture, we are instructed to follow God’s advice and treasure His commands. These commands should be sown in our hearts. So when ever life throws us a problem or a situation, we can call on the Word that is in our hearts and handle that situation or problem the way God’s Word has instructed us to. His words prevent us from suffering much of the pain and heartache that we would have suffered...had we tried to handle the situation ourselves.

New Normal: Guard God’s Word as your most valued treasure...store it deep in your heart! We need God’s Word like we need the air we breathe! For we live...move and have our being In Him! It’s that crucial!

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

For Your Spiritual Menu

By Carolyn Clinton King C., Th,D

Welcome back dear friend, it’s another day’s journey, aren’t you glad? Well we ended in the 9th Chapter of the book of Revelation, talking about the 7th trumpet that shall sound. Back tracking just a little today, let’s revisit Rev. 11:15-16. The Seventh trumpet includes all that follows down to the end of chapter nineteen. We must not forget in our visit of the Book of Revelation that the “Seventh Seal” includes the “Seven Trumpets” and the “Seven Vials”, and that the “Seventh Trumpet” includes the “Seven Vials”, for the “Seventh Seal”, and the “Seventh Trumpet”, and the “Seventh Vial” all end alike with “voices”, “thundering”, “lightnings” and an “earth quake.” Rev. 8:5. 11:19; 16:18.

Middle of the week (Rev. 12:1-17). Dr. Larkin summarizes, “After her child is delivered the Woman ‘flees into the Wilderness’ where she hath a place prepared of God, and where she is fed for 1260 days. Here is the ‘gap between the sixty-ninth and seventeenth weeks of Daniels’ seventy weeks’...John jumps over this gap, from the Ascension of Christ to the casting out of Satan, because he is not dealing in these Tribulation chapters with the Church, but with Israel, and wishes to continue her history without a break.” “Here is further evidence that the ‘Woman’ is not the Virgin Mary, for she does not flee into Egypt, but into the Wilderness, neither does she flee for her child’s ‘protection’ but for her own.

The second wonder that will appear in Heaven will be a “Great Red Dragon.” “We are not left in doubt as to who is meant, for in verse 9 he is called that ‘Old Serpent,’ ‘The Devil,’ and ‘Satan.’ His color is ‘red,’ the color of ‘blood,’ for he was a murderer from the beginning. John 8:44. The ‘Stars of Heaven’ attached to his ‘tail’ reveal the fact that Satan will lead astray a third of the Angels, for the Angels are spoken of as ‘Stars’ in the Old Testament Job 38:7? They will be cast to the earth with him. “The casting out of the Dragon is described in verses 7 to 12. His expulsion will start a War in Heaven.

Email comments to carolynking7@yahoo.com.

Before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, we were here.

Before the pen of Jefferson etched across the pages of history the majestic words of the Declaration of Independence, we were here. If the inexpressible cruelties of slavery could not stop us, the opposition we now face will surely fail. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

FREE COUNSELING AVAILABLE
CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING

TOO MUCH DEBT?
Not enough money left after meeting household expenses to make your loan and credit card payments? We offer confidential counseling for •Debt Payment Programs

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

For Your Spiritual Menu

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Email comments to carolynking7@yahoo.com.
Woods’ Fall From Grace Rekindles Role-model Debate

NEW YORK (AP) - Tiger Woods was different, or so he seemed, with his unmatched talent and carefully burnished image. Unlike some pro athletes, he had welcomed being a role model. He was, it turns out, too good to be true, and his fall from grace calls into question the very idea of sports hero worship.

“No one has approached this level of perfection on and off the playing surface, maybe ever, without a single blot or tarnish,” said Dave Crenshaw, director of operations for Northeastern University’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society.

“The real story here is the meeting of expectations with reality,” Crenshaw said. “The guy’s a human being and we forget that.”

Woods’ apology Wednesday for unspecified “transgressions” - coinciding with reports of repeated marital infidelity - was, on one level, only the latest in a long sequence of superstar downward.

Michael Phelps was photographed with a marijuana pipe. Marion Jones had her Olympic medals stripped for doping that she long denied. Roger Clemens and Alex Rodriguez faced dual allegations of steroid use and adultery. And so on.

Woods, however, was unique - a globally recognized brand name that evoked impeccability and historical greatness. His sponsors and handlers, his adoring chroniclers in the media, and especially Woods himself contributed to the image-making.

“The public had become jaded and indifferent, they expected Barry Bonds and Marion Jones and Sammy Sosa to fall,” said psychologist Stanley Teitelbaum, author of “Sports Heroes, Fallen Idols.”

“But no one really expected that of Tiger Woods,” he said. “Now that it happens to him, people are not as indifferent - there’s more disappointment and more disillusionment.”

Steve Elling, senior writer for CBSSports.com, wrote this week that fans and sportswriters, himself included, were gullible in placing Woods on so high a pedestal.

“We have learned by now to invest admiration in public figures with a grain of salt. With Woods, we just ate the whole salt lick,” Elling wrote. “Say it with me: Never, ever again.”

Woods, for all his preoccupation with mastery on the course, had managed throughout his career to be viewed as more than just a golfer - loving son to his parents, civic-minded creator of a foundation serving disadvantaged children, devoted father who said he’d play less golf so he could spend more time with his two young children.

He didn’t embrace social causes, and sometimes there were brief flashes of temper or crudeness. But as far back as 1997, he was on record as welcoming the responsibilities of role model. “I think it’s an honor to be a role model,” he was quoted as saying in a Business Week article. “If you are given a chance to be a role model, you should always take it because you can influence a person’s life in a positive light, and that’s what I want to do. That’s what it’s all about.”

If that was Woods’ goal, Teitelbaum said it had been achieved.

“In terms of a role model, he’s A-one,” the psychologist said. “The fans and, especially kids, are desperate to have role models to look up to. People have made him the designated sports hero. “When you’re among the high-flying and adored, your public will give you unconditional love as long as you continue to perform.”

Teitelbaum added: “But there’s a responsibility to be that much more careful and that much more transparent and, when something does happen, to deal with it openly.

The depths of sudden disillusionment with Woods have been almost tangible. According to Zeta Buzz, which tracks millions of blogs and social media posts, online references to Woods had been 91 percent positive before his recent troubles and by Thursday had dropped to 57 percent positive.

The owner of a youth-oriented Internet site called Role Models on the Web said Thursday he’d been inundated with hateful e-mails and phone calls for leaving a flattering entry about Woods on the site.

“Should he be considered a moral role model? No,” said Lamar Brantley of Sarasota, Fla. “But through his foundation, he’s done a lot of good.”

Above the Woods entry on the Web site, Brantley added this update: “I will leave Tiger up as a role model as I believe it is probably a good thing. The fact that he made what is clearly a big error does not dismiss the extraordinary level of discipline,” said Dan Doyle, director of the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island.

Extraordinary level of discipline,” said Dan Doyle, director of the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island.

“Tiger will never make this kind of mistake again.”

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The fact that he made what is clearly a big error does not dismiss him as someone who can have a tremendous effect on society and youth in the future,” Doyle added. “People will give him a second chance, and he will make good on that second chance.”

There’s an important parental role to play with kids,” said Joe Kelly, founder of a national fatherhood group called Dads and Daughters. “You need to make clear that role models are just models - they’re not without flaws, and we will be disappointed by them sometimes, the same way we’re disappointed by our parents sometimes.”

Kelly said he retained a degree of admiration for Woods because of the golfer’s past comments about how much it meant to become a father.

“We have higher responsibilities as fathers, rather than responding to every impulse and desire we might have,” Kelly said. “When it comes to being a father, we have to be the grown-up. When we act like children, the fallout is terrible.”

Some of Woods’ admirers believe he will redeem himself, not only through further golfing excellence but also through a show of character.

“He is distinctive in myriad ways - not only his talent, but his extraordinary level of discipline,” said Dan Doyle, director of the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island.

“What I think will happen is Tiger will never make this kind of mistake again.”

“Tiger will never make this kind of mistake again.”

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The fact that he made what is clearly a big error does not dismiss him as someone who can have a tremendous effect on society and youth in the future,” Doyle added. “People will give him a second chance, and he will make good on that second chance.”

Happy holidays to you and your loved ones!
Parents heard about efforts to revive the Cub Scout program in Des Moines inner city churches. When invitations went out from Cub Scout Pack # 1 to attend an informational meeting about the benefits of the Cub Scout program, there was some concern about how parents would respond because “parents are constantly bombarded with information on how their children are increasingly exposed to social ills and how this or that program is the answer, only to be disappointed by a lack of sustained effort by those programs to effectively make a difference”, said Gary Lawson, who is spearheading the Urban Scouting Project. “When their funding disappears, so does their work with the children” said Lawson, “and that is why we are grateful to have the participation of the African-American church in providing long-term support of inner city youth.”

Any concerns about parents responding to Cub Scouts Pack# 1’s invitation were put to rest at the informational meeting on November 17. The first wave of invited parents, and their young men, learned about Cub Scout Pack #1’s plan to provide youth with fun opportunities leading to life skills development by: 1) instilling healthy living through participation in vigorous activities such as camping (being physically fit); 2) nurturing a passion for learning (being mentally awake); and 3) strengthening the youths’ resolve to make the right decisions in life (being morally straight). Cub Scout Pack #1’s committee was represented by Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr. (Pack Committee Member and Host Pastor), Larry Young (Pack Committee Chair), and Marcie James (Pack Committee Member and Cubmaster). Others on the program included Gary Lawson, Dr. Julius Conner (Des Moines Physician and a long-time supporter of scouting programs), and Scott Walters (District Director, Mid-Iowa Council of Boy Scouts of America). “Our plan is to have a year-long and organized schedule of activities that includes the desires and participation of the parents”, said James; “we want to make our activities family-friendly”.

The evening was a great success ending with six young men registering as Cub Scouts that night. The Urban Scouting Project is a collaboration of the Iowa Juneteenth Observance and the Mid-Iowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Eastside Ministerial Urban Scouting Initiative (EMUUSI) is the sponsor of Cub Scout Pack #1 and all youth and adult volunteers are welcomed to participate. EMUSI consists of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Rev. Steve Perkins), King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church (Rev. Irvin Lewis, Sr.), Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church (Rev. Keith Ratliff), and Union Missionary Baptist Church (Rev. H.I. Thomas). The first Cub Scout Pack #1 youth meeting will not take place until January 19, 2010; however, efforts to recruit young men (1st thru 5th grades) and adult volunteers will continue until a limited number of children are enrolled. For further information about enrolling youth in Cub Scout Pack #1, contact Marcie James at 229-0234 or Marcie.James@lsiowa.org; or Larry Young at 979-8646 or ly9798646@yahoo.com.
By Gary Lawson

As the Annual Iowa Juneteenth Observance moves towards its 20th anniversary in 2010, we thought it would be helpful to review 2009 as it has been one of the most exciting and productive years to date. Our thinking is that by recounting the range of our activities, more people will consider attending, exhibiting, or even volunteering during 2010. Remember, Juneteenth in Iowa is an official holiday!

This is our fourth in a series of articles on the 2009 Iowa Juneteenth Observance. This article is about our Community Banquet.

Our Community Banquet was hosted by Cornerstone Family Church and partially underwritten by Nationwide Insurance Companies. This year’s banquet was truly unique as we made special efforts to reach out to area churches, community-based organizations, and individuals in surrounding neighborhoods. The result was the best and largest banquet to date consisting of more than 350 attendees.

The Iowa Juneteenth King & Queen, Johnny and Barbara Long of West Des Moines, were formally presented to an excited audience. The “Community Citizen of the Year” award was presented to Rev. H.I. Thomas, pastor of Union Missionary Baptist Church, for his more than 40 years of devoted service to churches and communities across Iowa, with particular recognition of the work that he has done regarding the development and guidance of youth. The banquet’s primary focus was on the development of urban youth and highlighted the Urban Scouting Project, which is a partnership between the Iowa Juneteenth Observance and the Mid-Iowa Council of Boy Scouts to return cub scouting to inner-city Des Moines. Boy scouts and cub scouts played prominent roles in the presentation of the banquet along with selections from members of the Iowa Juneteenth Mass Choir.

Our featured speaker was Bob Hopper, Scout Executive for the Mid-Iowa Council, who pledged continued support of the Urban Scouting Project. The Iowa Juneteenth Observance has pledged a minimum of 3 years of financial and other in-kind support for the Urban Scouting Project, which is a major investment for us with respect to youth development and its importance to the future of the inner-city.

We are working with churches to provide a more traditional face on scouting activities for urban youth. Our first successful effort was to play a leadership role in forming the Eastside Ministerial Urban Scouting Initiative (EMUSI), which consists of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church, Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church, and Union Missionary Baptist Church. EMUSI helped form Cub Scout Pack # 1 of the Two Rivers Scout District. King of Kings Missionary Baptist Church was selected as the official chartered organization for Pack # 1’s activities. Please continue to support our banquet so that we may continue our work with the Urban Scouting Project.

We owe the success of this year’s banquet to the hard work and great leadership of our Community Banquet Co-chairs, Casey Plecas and Lois Lawson.
Slim Win For Mayor Shows Battered Black Electorate

ATLANTA (AP) - When the final votes are counted, it's likely the black political machine that integrated Atlanta's City Hall - and kept it that way for four decades - will have pulled through once more to deliver a fifth consecutive black mayor.

 Barely.

Unofficial results in this week's mayoral runoff show voters elected former state Sen. Kasim Reed over white countycitizen Mary Norwood by a mere 715 votes, with a recount inevitable.

No matter what those final numbers say, the fissures in the machine were exposed, its future viability cast in doubt.

Atlanta's black population has shrunk and its white population grown since its current mayor, Shirley Franklin, was elected in 2001. Its voting rolls are filled with newcomers unfamiliar with Atlanta's habit of assigning its business interests to whites and its political interests to blacks. The reality is sinking in that black political power here is not as strong or united as it once was, and is destined to weaken as more whites seek office and more blacks shed their civil rights-era sentimentality.

"The racial issue has always been there," said former state Rep. Bob Holmes, who has studied Atlanta politics for more than a decade. "It was higher and closer to the surface in large part because this was the first election in 20 years where there was a significant white candidate. But there appeared to really be unity in the black community."

Atlanta's allure as the black mecca focused national attention on the race, as blacks across the country watched to see whether the city would remain a beacon of black leadership. To wit, Reed raised a million dollars during the runoff campaign - a quarter of it from out of state.

Both black and white voters demonstrated a willingness to stick with their candidate.

"The racial issue has always been there," said former state Rep. Bob Holmes, who has studied Atlanta politics for more than a decade. "It was higher and closer to the surface in large part because this was the first election in 20 years where there was a significant white candidate. But there appeared to really be unity in the black community."

Reed, who ran both of the current mayor's campaigns, was seen in some corners as the heir to Maynard Jackson. Jackson was elected Atlanta's first black mayor in 1973; when blacks wrested control of City Hall from whites after years of being shut out of city politics.

Slim Win For Mayor Shows Battered Black Electorate

Since then, blacks have fiercely defended Jackson's legacy, which has been as much about access as appearances.

During the election, Reed was embraced by Jackson's family, as well as former mayor and civil rights icon Andrew Young and Franklin - affirmations that may have struck a nostalgic chord with some black voters.

"There are folks who are here who struggled to see the election of black mayors and a majority black city council and school board and a municipal work force," Emory University political science professor Michael Owens said. "That still has a lot of meaning for people, the image of people like them being in control of political resources."

A major challenge to the machine is the thought, rapidly taking hold, that black leadership has not always meant black progress in Atlanta - the city still has a poverty rate of 22 percent, far more than the national average of 13 percent.

While race did factor into the campaign, the average Atlantan focused on balancing the city budget and getting the city through the down economy, said the Rev. Raphael Warnock, pastor of politically influential Ebenezer Baptist Church. But in addition to addressing crime, the city's finances and its future as the South's economic engine, Reed will need to work to unify a city that was divided during the campaign.

"Those issues ultimately trump the enduring issue of race," Warnock said.

For its part, the Reed campaign didn't rely on the black vote alone. The runoff campaign also focused heavily on white intown voters, who supported Reed and his rival during the general election, city council President Lisa Borders - who endorsed him in the runoff.

"We had to get more white support than she did black support," said campaign manager Tharon Johnson of the contest against Norwood. "You could look at the numbers from November 3 and see we did well there."

The Reed campaign did offer a model for helping the machine survive. While he recruited the hip-hop stars like Ludacris and Keri Hilson to help him build this Facebook, YouTube and Twitter rally to raise money, he also relied upon old school tactics that have worked in Atlanta for years - especially mobilizing the city's civil rights community and black clergy.

"They are still a very potent force," said Harvey Newman, chair of the department of public management and policy in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Georgia State University. "And black congregations have been good, strong voters."

But black church attendance is not what it used to be. And Norwood's grassroots appeal also spoke directly to many in those rights community and black clergy.

"She spoke to an element that felt left out, overlooked," said the Rev. Timothy McDonald of First Iconium Baptist Church. "That's who we represent. Ministers were challenged to go back to their pulpits and start energizing the base."

State-wide Collaboration To Take On Stigma Of AIDS

The Iowa HIV Anti-Stigma Alliance include: AIDS Project of Central Iowa, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Community AIDS Partnership, First Light Christian Fellowship, University of Iowa Virology Clinic, Siouxland Community Health Center, Poweshiek County Mental Health Center, Iowa HIV/HEPNET, and the Iowa Network (CHAIN), Nebraska AIDS Project, Family Planning Council of Iowa, McLellan Marketing, and Positive Iowans Taking Charge (PITCH)
Pilot Program Launches To Expand, Improve Solid Waste Services In Iowa

Six Iowa solid waste planning areas are participating in the Environmental Management System (EMS) designation pilot program that launched Nov. 17 to improve facility operations and expand environmental services offered to the public, benefiting Iowa’s environment.

Iowa’s EMS program will look beyond garbage collection and concentrate on six areas including yard waste management, hazardous household waste collection, water quality improvement, greenhouse gas reduction, recycling services and environmental education.

The six pilot areas selected to participate in the EMS pilot program represent both large and small solid waste planning and service areas and include:
- Cass County Environmental Control Agency
- Cedar Rapids-Linn County Landfill Service Area
- Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency
- Metro Waste Authority Landfill Service Area
- Rathbun Area Solid Waste Management Commission

Volunteers Honored For Environmental Service

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program honored 16 individuals and groups at a recent volunteer awards ceremony.

Officials recognized volunteers at the ninth annual DNR Volunteer Awards Banquet, held at Swan Lake State Park on Nov. 21.

Volunteers and guests from across the state gathered at the Swan Lake Education Center for lunch, a presentation about nature photography, an awards ceremony and the opportunity to share their volunteer achievements with each other.

Iowa has great needs,” DNR Deputy Director Pat Boddy told the volunteers. “Your work is helping to meet those needs.” Volunteers have donated an average of 164,000 hours per year to state parks and conservation programs since 2003.

The Keepers of the Land program handed out awards to outstanding volunteers in seven categories:
- Lee Schoene of Spencer won the Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award for serving as chair of three local conservation organizations, leading birding trips for Spencer third and sixth graders, and assisting with DNR water bird research.
- Ray Ward and Betty Scott of Burlington topped the Outstanding Volunteer Group category for serving more than 7,000 hours over five years as campground hosts at Geode State Park.
- Bill Schaefer of Des Moines won the Outstanding Small Project Award for 14 years of constructing and maintaining the multi-use trails system at Stephens State Forest.
- The Friends of the Ledges took home the Outstanding Large Project Award for restoring a historic Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed stone arch bridge at Ledges State Park.
- Wayne Buchholtz of Dubuque won the Outstanding DNR Staff Award for his 12 years of offering guidance, suggestions and advice; helping us grow and mature in what we are able to do.
- The Legacy of Service Award is a new award offered in memory of volunteers who gave their time and energy to Iowa’s natural resources.
- The first honoree is Trisha Yauk of Wadena, who co-founded Take a Kid Outdoors (TAKO) in 2006.
- The EMS pilot program was made possible by 2008 legislation, House File 2570. The legislation sets aside up to 30 percent of current allocated Solid Waste Alternative Program Funds. Iowa’s solid waste planning areas may use the set aside monies to transition and improve their EMS programs.

For more information on the EMS pilot program, go to www.iowawater.gov/waste/sw/ems.html.

Free Corinthian Health Clinic 9th & Freeway

3rd Tuesday of Every Month
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Blank Children’s Hospital
Corinthian Baptist Church
Co-Sponsored by:
Iowa Department of Public Health
Free Clinics of Iowa
For further information phone 243-4073

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NAACP To File Complaint Against North Carolina School District

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) - The state chapter of the NAACP says it will file a federal complaint against an eastern North Carolina school system alleging that its practices have hampered black students.

The organization said in a news release issued Monday that it would file the complaint against Wayne County schools, citing policies that have resulted in lower graduation rates, higher suspension rates and more and stiffer discipline for black students.

The statement said the complaint would be filed Tuesday with the U.S. Department of Education.

A spokesman for the Boston public schools says administrators intend to file additional motions in the case.

Top School Retaliated Against Black Teacher, Jury Rules

BOSTON (AP) - A jury has found that the elite Boston Latin School retaliated against a black teacher who claimed discrimination after administrators stripped him of his teaching position and replaced him with a less experienced white teacher.

Jurors in Suffolk Superior Court this week awarded Jonathan Bonds $341,000 for his claim that the school refused to appoint him chairman of its history department in 2006. The jury, however, rejected his discrimination claims.

Bonds tells The Boston Globe that his case was about “reputation and honor.”

A spokesman for the Boston public schools says administrators intend to file additional motions in the case.

Boston Latin, founded in 1635, is the oldest public school in the nation and students must pass a rigorous exam to attend.
Are We Really Safe?

There are a lot of things that are allowed to take place in America in the name of profit. Companies are allowed to make and sell products that they know are inferior and sometimes even dangerous. Untested drugs are being prescribed and sold, and we the people need to be able to have faith in the drugs and medicines that we need to preserve or correct our health.

We see and hear about recalls on drugs that have endangered or killed someone or a number of people. I feel that there isn’t enough being done to prevent this sort of thing from happening. One big reason for the continuation of this reckless behavior is that there is a limit to how much you can sue a company for - a set amount and that’s all.

With that particular thought in mind, they can afford to sell poison to us and make enough money to offset anything we could possibly sue them for, how convenient for them.

There is one thing that really bothers me. Back in 1982, we heard a story of a person having put poison in bottles of Tylenol, and some people died from this act. The problem I have with this story is simply this; if a person was that evil or insane enough to perpetrate such a foul deed, why is it that they never did anything else even related to that type of behavior?

As far as I know, no one was ever arrested or charged for this crime. I took enough psychology in school that I can tell you, without reservation, that nobody that could do something like that once, could stop there, you see, it fulfills a morbid need and they have to do it again and again until caught and stopped.

By this juncture you’re probably wondering what is my point, in answer to that question, I will ask you one: “What if the poison that got into the Tylenol got into it at the factory by mistake. Do you think anyone would be willing to admit to such a blunder?”

I felt a need to write this because of all the stories I hear about horrible side effects and even some deaths that result from the drugs we are ingesting today. It is a horrible shame for a person to get worse or die from an attempt to be well. God Bless America.

R. L. Parkey, Sr.

More People Will Be Able To Get the H1N1 Vaccine

Everyone between the ages of 4-24 is now able to get the H1N1 vaccine. All health care workers will now be eligible as well.

“For the first two months of our H1N1 vaccination campaign we focused on the people at the greatest risk to be hospitalized if infected. But, we are now in position to make the vaccine available to others at risk,” said Terri Henkels, Polk County Health Department Director.

The full list of people eligible to be vaccinated includes:

- health care and emergency medical workers
- pregnant women
- people who live with or care for children under the age of 6 months
- people between the ages of 6 months and 24
- people age 25-64 with chronic health conditions
- Children under the age of 10 who have already received their initial H1N1 vaccination

“People should remember pandemics often have three “waves” of illness spread through the community. This is the second wave. Anyone eligible to be vaccinated should do so,” said Ms. Henkels.

Polk County Health Department will provide H1N1 vaccinations to eligible people on a walk-in basis at Moore Elementary School, 3725 52nd Street, Des Moines IA. New clinic hours will be Monday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. There will be no charge for the vaccinations.

“People who are eligible will not need to arrive early (before the clinic opens) and they should not expect long lines. They will have the option to get vaccinated throughout the day,” said Ms. Henkels.

For more information, visit www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health or follow us on Twitter. Specific questions about the H1N1 virus or the vaccine can be directed to Polk County Health Department H1N1 Influenza Information Line (515-333-5330).
Ossian To Lecture At Ft. Des Moines

The Fort Des Moines Museum presents a lecture and book signing by Lisa L. Ossian, Author of "The Home Fronts of Iowa 1939-1945" on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at 75 E. Army Post Rd in Des Moines.

Ossian will share information about how Iowans quickly moved from a skepticism to responding enthusiastically to assist in the war effort by answering the call on four fronts: farms, factories, communities, and kitchens. Learn how our Iowa’s farmers faced labor and machinery shortages, yet produced record amounts of crops and animals—even at the expense of valuable topsoil. Ordnance plants turned out bombs and machine gun bullets. Meanwhile, communities supported war bond and scrap drives, while housewives coped with rationing, raised “Victory Gardens,” and turned to home canning. Beyond these home fronts, Ossian also notes the heavy toll exacted on Iowa’s sons who fell in battle.

These books, home-based memory treasures, are EXCELLENT gifts for the holidays!

Supported by Smokestacks and Silos National Heritage Area. For more information, call 515-282-2400.

WHO’s Van & Bonnie Named Personalities Of The Year

Van & Bonnie of WHO-AM Des Moines were named Medium Market Personalities of the Year at the 2009 National Association of Broadcasters’ Marconi Radio Awards. The awards were announced at the annual NAB Marconi Radio Awards Dinner & Show held during the NAB Radio Show in Philadelphia.

The prestigious awards recognize radio’s outstanding personalities and stations in 21 categories. Marconi finalists were selected by a task force of broadcasters, and the winners were voted on by the NAB Marconi Radio Awards Selection Academy. The votes were tabulated by an independent firm.

The NAB Marconi Radio Awards Dinner & Show was hosted by Laura Ingraham, host of Talk Radio Network’s “The Laura Ingraham Show.” The show also featured a live performance by renowned R&B artist Brian McKnight, host of Citadel Media Networks’ “The Brian McKnight Show.”

WHO-AM was also named Medium Market Station Of The Year.

Former House Speaker & Gubernatorial Candidate Christopher Rants
Former Des Moines School Board Director Jonathan R. Narcisse

IowaSolutionsDebate2010.com

Follow former House Speaker and Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Christopher Rants and former Des Moines School Board Director Jonathan R. Narcisse, a Democrat, in their six city debate tour at IowaSolutionsDebate2010.com.

Free H1N1 Vaccination Clinics

What: Free H1N1 mist and shots

When: Every Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointments, walk-in only.

Where: Moore Elementary School, 3725 52nd St

Who: The vaccine is only available to people in the following priority groups:
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children under 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel
- Anyone 6 months to 24 years of age
- Adults 25 through 64 who have chronic medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, lung or heart disease, or are immune compromised from cancer or HIV treatment
- Children under 10 who need their second vaccination

Questions? Call 515-323-5330 or visit www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health

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Dec. 11-27

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