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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

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Community Unites to Address Migrant Crisis in Chicago and Preserve Amundsen Park Programs

By Ken Cook



Chicago Westside NAACP President Karl Brinson, along 29th Ward Ald. Chris Taliaferro, other community leaders and residents speaking against Amundsen Park being converted to shelter for immigrants and replacing programs for youth and seniors.

In a remarkable display of solidarity, community members from Chicago's Westside, alongside prominent activist groups and dedicated elected officials, gathered today to confront the persistent migrant crisis afflicting the city. Their purpose: to safeguard their community at any cost. Together, they stood as a beacon of unity and determination, prepared to take action and protect

their community in the face of adversity.

At the heart of this gathering is the determination to stop the city plan to repurpose Amundsen Park as a migrant shelter. This takeover will inevitably disrupt programs serving the community's youth and seniors. The dedication to preserving

See Amundsen back page

State Rep. Lakesia Collins appointed State Senator 5th District of Illinois

By Todd Thomas



5th District of Illinois, State Senator Lakesia Collins being interviewed by NLCN publisher Isaac Lewis Jr. on her appointment as State Senator replacing retired Illinois Senator Patricia Van Pelt.

NLCN Publisher Isaac Lewis sat down with 9th District State Senator Lakesia Collins for a Podcast on the YVPodcast channel, and gained some valuable insight into Collins' career and just what it means to be a state senator. The entire video podcast can be seen on www.yvpmmedia.org.

Look for podcast interviews. Collins has had a rapid ascension to state senator and attributes it to her work ethic and passion to see change in the community. "A lot of people thought that I was going to be a puppet for my union," said Collins, who has been very active with SEIU Healthcare and was a CNA for

11 years. "And I showed them that I am not. I am a hard worker and this is what I do - I've been doing it my entire life."

Collins has a large area to cover in the 9th district that includes

See Collins page 10

NLCP Phoenix Winning Season ends with Playoff Loss

By Todd Thomas



Phoenix player Daryl Bryant reacts to the team's playoff loss Saturday at Lane Stadium.

The North Lawndale College Prep football team lost in the first round of the IHSA playoffs, putting an end to the Phoenix's 2023 winning campaign. After a successful 8-1 regular season the Phoenix achieved their goal of hosting a state playoff game. They faced off against Fairbury (Prairie Central) at Lane Stadium on a chilly

afternoon, but fell 48-6.

The Phoenix, although known for basketball, have made considerable strides since Sam Williford took over as head coach five years ago, and they have made it to the playoffs the past three seasons. This year's team features a spread offense that allows them to highlight the speed

See NLCP page 6

Youth Violence Prevention Program at Malcolm X College

By Todd Thomas



Youth Violence Prevention Media, a youth arm of Strategic Human Services and North Lawndale Community News visits Malcolm X College

Strategic Human Services Youth Violence Prevention Program students in collaboration with LAMP visited Malcolm X College and received three rounds of information to help them learn more about career opportunities in the medical field and the space program, but first they heard from Congressman Danny K. Davis who gave them a presentation

on the importance of education and developing better communication skills and workplace behavior.

Davis talked about how his education helped propel his political career and how education at community colleges like Malcolm X can help the student achieve their goals. Davis actually taught

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Spotlighting A Community Hero



Rev Robin Hood

Several media outlets have partnered with other sponsors in what is called The Community Hero Spotlight program which encourages readers and listeners to vote for the person who makes the biggest positive impact for their communities. Community Heroes with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd most votes will receive money to donate to the charity of their choice. Please help us promote Rev. Robin to 1st place as a Community Hero by **scanning the QR code** on this page or **going to this link <https://community-hero.com/>**

We know there are many heroes in our communities which are doing great work and they may have a team and networks that help them in their work but each media outlet was asked to select only one community hero. We submitted Rev Robin Hood for his life of service and community accomplishments which many have gone unsung. Help us to show some love for his zeal to do good in the community.

Reverend Robin Hood was the founding pastor of Redeemed Outreach Ministries in the Chicago South and West sides for 25 years. His work can be seen in many communities around the city of Chicago, in organizing and successfully bringing anti-violence innovations, housing, education solutions, and jobs.

Rev. Hood is the founder of Illinois Anti-Foreclosure Coalition, that helps stop reverse mortgage fraud and changed Illinois law

Community Heroes with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd most votes will receive money to donate to the charity of their choice. Please help us promote Rev. Robin to 1st place as a Community Hero

to protect consumers. He has trained and instructed on community organizing, activism, and grassroots campaigns in many colleges and universities across the country. He has also organized communities, churches and politicians on issues such as: living wages, hospital accountability, and health care for the past 20 years. He is the founder of Mothers Opposed To Violence Everywhere, Youth Opposed To Violence Everywhere, North Lawndale Boxing League and Brothers and Sisters of the formerly incarcerated.

North Lawndale Community News has covered many issues where Rev Robin Hood was a catalyst and activist including helping seniors where many seniors were being scammed by a construction contractor Mark Diamond and his associates. Recently NLCN released a story on the work of Rev. Hood on epidemic of stolen KIA cars and the impact it had on the car owners in Chicago, Milwaukee and across the nation.

Born March 22, 1962, Rev. Hood lived at 1817 S Hamlin and moved to 1803 S Trumbull. In 1969, He moved to Maywood. Every weekend he would come to the Westside and would go back home just before it got dark. He went to Garfield Elementary. He also went to Howland Elementary before going to Maywood. He attended Farragut for two years and went to Laona High School in Laona, Wisconsin. While there, he took a trade with the International Brotherhood of Painters. He was planning to move to Texas where a job was waiting for him. But his mother asked would he come back to Chicago before he moved. He never got the chance to go to that job in Texas.

On February 15, 1987, 24 yrs old at that time, while on the roof of M&M Candy Company, where he worked, he would go to smoke weed (marijuana). He heard a voice that said "I want you to preach the gospel".

He went home and opened Bible went to the scripture of said, "go and preach the gospel to all nations." He wasn't going to church before but he did go to church that following Sunday. Then pastor, Bishop Claude Porter of Proviso Missionary Baptist Church in Maywood whispered in his ear "God has calling on your life," confirmed what God told him on the roof.

Rev Hood was given his chance to preach his first sermon which he titled "Lord have Mercy on Me." He didn't miss any Sundays for three years also attending bible studies, and was given a key to the church because he was there so much, every Sunday and every bible study.

Rev. Hood lost his sister to gun violence. who got killed in a park playground on 1500 block of Trumbull Ave. Brenda Hood at 25 years old was shot by a 15 year youth playing with a gun. Rev. Hood's older brother was also killed putting gas in his own car, his daughter's car, and his fiancée's car at the same time. The gunman was trying to hijack his car.

Ironically both gunmen attended Moses Montefiore Academy, serving students with severe emotional disorders. After his brother was killed and he saw the relationship of Montefiore he decided to go up to the school and start to work with high risk youth.

Charles Billups, nicknamed "Head" afflicted with cancer asked him to work with Coach Derek Brown, then known as Shotgun his street name. He was a high ranking vice-lord. Rev. Hood, reluctant as first, soon introduced him to the group at Montifore as the new Director of North Lawndale Boxing League. He started with one jug two pairs of boxing gloves and five kids. Coach Brown) is now the Executive Director of the Boxing Out Negativity. Coach Brown also became president of the Local School Council of Penn and a boxing program in Lathrop, Penn, Dvorak, and Chalmers of which Rev. Hood helped get established getting

them media attention and national recognition.

Rev. Hood invited him to work with him at Montifore. Hood has had great successes with other gangs members and violence.

Rev Hood started working against housing contractors that bilked senior citizens out of their equity in their homes by first finding out that two young men were looking to kill Marked Diamond, because they said he stole their grandmother's property and caused her death because of it.

Rev. Hood's late Aunt, Lillie Williams was also a victim of Mark Diamond and his associates reverse mortgage scheme causing Hood to educate himself. He contacted then WGN's TV reporter Tonya Franciso and North Lawndale News publisher Isaac Lewis, Jr about Mark Diamond and his associates scamming seniors on the South and Westsides for over years. Rev. Hood also enlisted the help of the FBI, attorney Dennis Smith with John Marshall Law School's pro bono law clinic to help fight his aunt's foreclosure case and Illinois lawmakers to get the law changed regarding reverse mortgages.

Diamond was ordered by the judge to pay more than \$2.3 million dollars to 47 homeowners who were scammed by him. Recently, Diamond still on trial was released on bond allowed to work as long as he didn't interact with any customers, which he violated by scamming \$203,000 in cash from an elderly victim and causing her to take out four loans, totaling around \$762,000 benefitting Diamond. He was recently order to return to jail and rearrested.

Rev. Hood stands on the shoulders of activists Mahale Summerville, Clara Smith, and Omie Adams from the activist group ACORN, now dissolved. Rev Hood learned strong activism causing a wage increase for workers in 2003. He also coordinated hundreds of youth getting employment for the summer and throughout the year, fighting for residents being mistreated by landlords and more.

Many other accomplishments and community battles Rev. Robin Hood, with the help of his wife Mrs. Louvenia Hood, have taken on that are too numerous to mention. Because he wakes up everyday ready to be active. Thank you Rev. Hood for your service.

Vote for a Community Hero featured in each of these media outlets. Heroes with the 1st,

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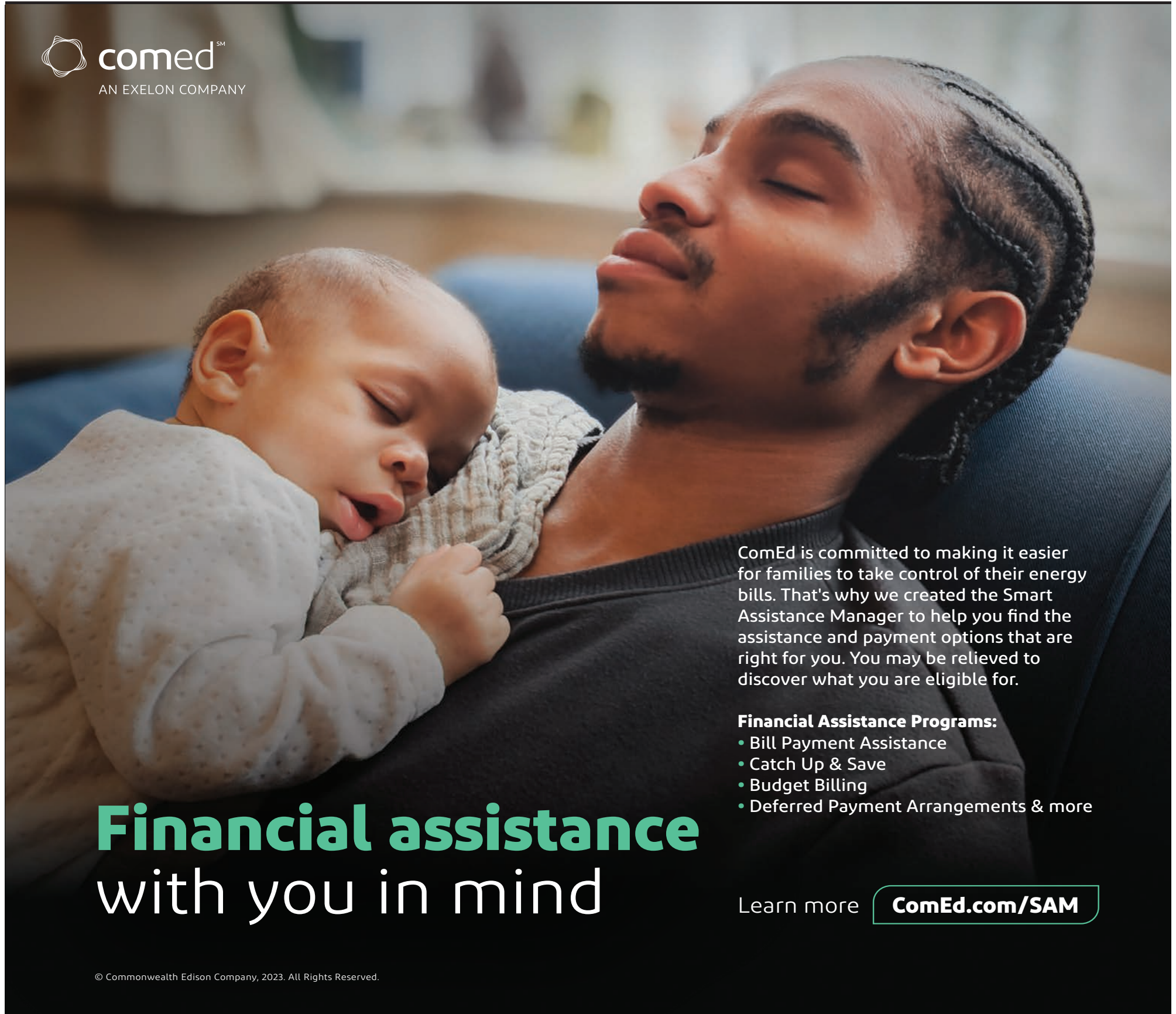
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A collage of logos for various community organizations and media outlets, including:

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- ILLatinoNews.com THE ONLINE NEWS SOURCE OF ILLINOIS' LATINOS
- LaRaza www.LaRaza.com
- North Lawndale Community News Strategic Human Services
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Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Health Fair

by Chevette M Conley



State Senator Lakesia Collins, 9th District, ????????, Pastor Steve Spiller, Mr. Louvenia Hood and husband Rev. Robin Hood address attendees at Greater Galilee MB church's Annual Health Fair.

Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Health Fair in October. People came to the church on a sunny, beautiful 80-degree day and as soon as the event started people enjoyed the mobile health van's access to free health care provided by Near North Medical Facilities.

There were blood pressure and blood glucose assessments, and there were also Covid and Flu vaccines provided for free. Blood pressure checks are critical for the black community because an estimated 55% of black adults have high blood pressure, known as hypertension or HBP. Black people also have disproportionately high rates of more severe HBP and it develops earlier in life.

Children were provided free dental checkups and cleanings, and a wealth of information was given regarding diet, mammograms, colorectal cancer, cervical cancer, weight, and exercise. There were also free giveaways and raffles.

Many church members were on hand to partake in the services, and there were members from other churches and the neighborhood as well. Pastor Steve Spiller

Sr. seemed very pleased with the services and the turnout. He spoke about being prostate cancer free for years, and strongly advocated that men should get their prostates checked. The church provides these free health care services all at once every year, so there is no reason not to take advantage of it.

The event was spearheaded by Pastor Steve Spiller Sr.'s sister Schezelle Spiller-Harris. Senator Lakesia Collins, Rev. Robin Hood and his wife, Louvenia Hood were on hand to remind people how important it is to get checked out, and to get their Covid vaccines, because Covid has never really gone away completely and seems to be resurfacing.

Oak Street Health was on hand at the fair and they were offering paint and sip classes. Registration is by telephone. You can call (773) 377-7673 for more information. Classes are held at: 3433 West Madison. Oak Street Health also offers In-person, phone, or video visits. They have a 24/7 support line for around-the-clock-care, and everyone in the neighborhood and surrounding community are encouraged to take advantage of its comprehensive, quality medical care. Their Bingo Afternoon ZUMBA classes.

Member of Greater Galilee forced to move by landlord/building issues

by Chevette M Conley



24th Ward Alderman Monique Scott (red) explaining the city process with building issues, next to her is State Senator Lakesia Collins (blue) back row son of Steve Millier, Rev. Robin Hood,

On Saturday September 23rd, 2023, Pastor Steve Spiller Sr. of Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, along with Pastor Robin Hood, Alderwoman Monique Scott, and Senator Lakesia Collins, along with others from Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church held a press conference proclaiming their solidarity with Ms. Aletha Wilson, a member of Greater Galilee. They are demanding accountability from her landlord for declining living conditions.

Ms. Wilson, who resides in the building located at 1256 S. Independence Blvd, directly across the street from Greater Galilee, has been having difficulties with the owner of the building, and she complained about violations there. Upon inspection city inspectors found seven violations.

Wilson says rats were coming into her apartment. Not mice, Rats!! She has lived at the property for 17 years, but now the rats are taking residence there. The landlord had been given notice of the seven violations that were recorded by the City of Chicago's Inspection. The landlord or owner doesn't even reside in Illinois, and she has an address in Los Angeles. Pastor Steve Spiller Sr. stated: "We are sick and tired and we are not going to take it anymore!!"

Wilson said her utilities were turned off in retaliation for her complaints. Compounding matters, Section 8 did not pay their portion of the rent for Wilson because the building

failed Inspection in March of 2023. The Landlord says it would cost too much to fix the Violations. Therefore, Wilson was sent a termination letter.

The owner expects the residents to just live there under horrible conditions and suffer, while continuing to pay rent. There is no compassion for her tenants, there is no accountability. State Senator Lakesia Collins says: "It's more so... just profit over people."

Alderwoman Monique Scott of the 24th Ward says when her office makes a call to the Department of Buildings & Inspections they can come out and issue a citation. In some cases, residents have had to vacate their home in as little as 24 hours.

We need more people who are Invested in our community, not just somebody taking a dollar, says Alderwoman Scott. We must learn to report these injustices for any resident residing on properties of slum lords. If these owners or landlords don't care about the safety and comfort of their tenants, they should not be able to purchase & own buildings, or property in our neighborhoods, especially if they live out of state. Something must be done, this must stop. But, it starts with the residents speaking up and reporting the injustices and poor living conditions.

Ms. Aletha Wilson had the courage to speak up. Hopefully the beginning of this fight will turn into a win- win instead of a lose- lose situation for tenants.



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5K run brings runners to North Lawndale

By Todd Thomas



Lawndale Christian Health Center 5k Run participants hopeful to finish the run



Lawndale Christian Health Center 5k Run participants getting ready to run.

The Lawndale Christian Health Center's annual 5K run is always a special event in the community, and now in its 15th year enjoyed one of its biggest turnouts ever with over 1000 participants who ran and walked the 3.1 mile course fundraiser. The center serves the community year round and the 5K run is an extension of its mission and represents its core values of holistic health.

North Lawndale College Prep CEO Jemia Cunningham-Elder participated with a group of students and staff from the school and saw the event as a way to get them involved in an event to improve their health, while supporting the community. "We know that physical health and mental health are very important in our community, and physical health impacts mental health and vice versa. So if we can teach our students and staff to take care of themselves by running and getting exercise, it helps us and the community decrease diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure," she said. And the school always strives to be a part of the community. "We are a school in the community of the community, so when community things are going on we need to be there," she said.

Chicago has its share of running events, but the run on the West Side is unique for the area where running isn't as popular, so getting people exposed to the benefits of running is important as Lawndale Christian Health Center marketing manager Kelsey Nygaard explains.

"In this community we tend to see fewer runners. People don't always feel as safe to run on the streets. Here there aren't as many protected bike lanes and sidewalks that make runners feel safe. It's important to make running accessible to

everybody, and it's part of your overall wellbeing. Bringing the community together is important, and of course the physical activity benefits your physical health. We believe that your physical health and your mental wellbeing and your spiritual wellness are all part of being healthy as a whole person," Nygaard said.

Runner Maurice Washington has run the 5K five times and also wanted the community to experience the benefits of running, which he found helped him deal with tough situations growing up on Chicago's south side and in Michigan. He credits running with building his mental fortitude and wants others to reap the benefits.

"Being able to run and finish a race is an example of battling through hardships. You have to push yourself. You become stronger because of it. Your body gives up, your legs give up on you, your mind gives up on you. But your heart - if it's in the right place you can push through anything," Washington said.

He also wants young men of color to see him there running course, and possibly motivate them to get involved. "This wasn't about competition for me," he said. "I love seeing the people in the community who are black and brown cheering you on. You can run a marathon downtown Chicago or up north, but there's nothing like doing it in Englewood or North Lawndale, Woodlawn, or South Shore or Garfield Park. I want to be around people I identify with. I want them to see me out there so they can see themselves out there."

The 5K run started in 2008 to promote wellness in the community and bring people together for a day of fun. The proceeds benefit the Center's Fitness Rx program.



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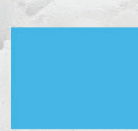
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Breast Cancer Awareness Month celebrated at Montclare Senior Bldg



The Montclare Supportive Living Community of Lawndale located at 4339 W. 18th Place held a fundraiser in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness for the month of October. The fundraiser was for the Pkruzz and Faith Foundation, a nonprofit that assists in cancer research and in helping individuals find the best doctors and care to complete their breast cancer treatment. They were able to help raise over \$1000.

The organization was founded and is led by Orlantha Bennett, who also is known as Panela and she is breast cancer survivor herself. She has been afflicted with breast cancer twice and in the same location. But lives by her slogan "Giving up is not an option." The organization has been in existence for eight years. Stated Panela, "Its purpose is to mentor women and men in how to go through life's obstacle being diagnosed with this severe disease."

The proceeds from the fundraiser goes to support cancer survivors. It is a funding foundation that offers research and placement in hospitals. Guiding patients to the best hospitals and to where are the good doctors. Said Panela, "I knew how I felt when I was diagnosed, I was lost, knowing some of the things I was missing. Ms. Panela states, "I wanted to come into the community and help the community become aware of it, so when it happens you will be well prepared for it.

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Outbound Investments in the Crosshairs

by Zaki Muhumad

October 27th, 2023 from 10:00 to 11:00 am Washington International Trade Association presented a virtual discussion on the topic of security in trading, especially with China. Statistical evidence has America as # 1 and China # 2 as the world's largest economies. Here is the data The World's Top 10 Countries by GDP 2023 - Infos-10 (infos10.com)

- America:
- GDP (nominal) – \$25.03 trillion (2023)
 - GDP per capita – \$75,180
 - Population – 331 million
 - GDP (PPP) – \$25.03 trillion (2nd)
- China:
- GDP (nominal) – \$18.32 trillion (2023)
 - GDP per capita – \$12,970
 - Population – 1.43 trillion
 - GDP (PPP) – \$30.07 trillion (1st)
- And # 3 is Japan:
- GDP (nominal) – \$4.3 trillion (2023)
 - GDP per capita – \$34,358
 - Population – 126.4 million
 - GDP (PPP) – \$6.1 trillion (4th)

Panelists were: Daniel Bahar, Managing Director, Rock Creek Global Advisors; former Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Services and Investment, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Peter Harrell, Non-Resident Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and former Senior Director for International Economics and Competitiveness, National Security Council at the White House
Emily Kilcrease, Senior Fellow and Director of the Energy, Economics, and Security Program, Center for a New American Security, Clete Willems, Partner, Akin and Non-resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council; former Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economics and Deputy NEC Director, The White House; former Chief Counsel for Negotiations, Legislation, and Administrative Law, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

The Moderator was: Clay Lowery, Executive Vice President, Research and Policy, Institute of International Finance; former Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department, and Director of International Finance at the National Security Council at the White House

The story is pretty easy to understand, let's tackle it by saying what everyone knows. In the game of life, the one that survives writes the epitaph for the loser. Buying and selling is one of the oldest things that have anchored society. Trade is more than just a business; it is the very lifeblood of society. Without the mercantile class, or the goods produced, the world would be in what is called the "Stone Age."

The discussion of the experts centered around how to keep America's technology safe from "Bad Actors" which is a phrase that government began using to describe competitiveness in the markets.

Investments are also a considerable factor in determining how much is made and how much is lost. It is plain and simple, watch the discussion; Trade and National Security: China and Outbound Investment in the Crosshairs - WITA and you'll come away with ideas about how America is faring in her battle with China for supremacy in import and export and trade. Are there any companies that do business internationally in the North Lawndale, Austin, and Garfield Communities?

Yes, there are a few, and you'll have to do the research yourself. Oh, this is a news story, isn't it? Yes, it is, but everyone knows the story of Afro descendants who spend; "According to black consumer spending statistics, black households spent an estimated \$835 billion in 2019 and are projected to reach a buying power of \$1.8 trillion by 2024." 9 Power of Black Consumer Spending Statistics [2023 Update] (businessdit.com)

In addition, to being a big spender, Afro descendants are not living up to their potential as global citizens.

Now, you'll say that is slander. Here is where you readers must be truthful to your own self.

Can Afro descendants inside of America, continue not doing international trade? Can Afro descendants continue being just a people who buy things and not produce?

In truth, where you put your mind, you put your money. As adults do we train our young people to protect the monies we give them or do we teach them by example to misuse it?

"The US dollar is the most commonly used currency in international transactions and is the world's largest reserve currency," but for how long? Afro descendant Youth, embrace the study of trade! The links provided with this story will give you a picture of where we as Afro descendants put our dollars. You are our future to bring about a change.

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Collins from front page

many demographics including North Lawndale, Austin, and Garfield Park but also parts of Bucktown and Wicker Park. She said she is up to the challenge of representing these diverse constituents.

Collins is also the Black Caucus Whip and has to deal with both sides of the aisle in Springfield.

"I have to talk to republicans and moderate democrats to get them on the same page," Collins said. As far as the caucus she said: "We all care about the same things - the liberation of the black community."

But her constituent size has almost doubled from around 110,000 to almost

217,000. It's very large and very diverse. There's a lot more responsibility. But it's not something I cannot handle and it's been wonderful," Collins said.

She has also risen quickly in her political career, but she's not surprised at all. "People wonder how I rose up in leadership since 2020, it's because of the relationships I've built. It was because I took on a lot of challenging bills and I've made a name for myself. I didn't back down, I didn't just sit back and watch - my community depends on me and I fought hard for legislation that I promised during my campaign," she said.

Collins also said she experienced things in her own life that led her to want to see substantial change in the system,

including child abuse, homelessness and being a low-wage worker struggling to pay rent. "I was fed up with the way the government ran," she said. And it's all about relating to people from different life experiences to understand and have meaningful productive dialogue. "Everybody has different interests - everybody has different lived experiences," she said. "I was always able to meet someone in the middle and I think that's important to have conversations."

At the time of the interview Collins also said that she's not on any committees yet, but will continue working on the issues she took on as a state rep. Including helping grassroots organizations. "Nonprofits on the west

side didn't have the necessary funding to last the fiscal year. These organizations are doing incredible work, but don't have the capacity to reach as many people as possible."

Moving forward she said that what she needs from the community to be mutually successful is for them to be more engaged. "Support- we have to get back in the groove of having meetings - and people do care, but they've lost faith in government because they think governments are not doing anything for them."

"There is no meeting that is too small or too big that we can't handle. But people need to know and be more involved in state government because we make the laws and appropriate the state funds to run the state," Collins said.

NLCP from front page

they have at the skill positions, and several members of the track team play wide receiver, running back and quarterback.

"We retooled the team from last year and we have a lot of options, so we figured out a way with the spread offense to get them the ball," Williford said. "It allows us to feature certain players and put them in the right situations to take advantage of their strengths."

The keys to the Phoenix engine belong to senior quarterback Earnest Rice, who has steadily improved and blossomed into the type of all-around player the team needs. He has great speed and runs well, and also throws a nice deep ball. "My deep balls are my favorite and they're very accurate. I can throw over 60 yards, that's my strong suit," Rice said.

He does still use his legs often and has no problem leaving the pocket, but he said he wants to concentrate more on the passing game. "Passing is more fun and it's better for my teammates and gets more people involved and gets everybody hyped," he said.

And getting players on the team adequate playing time and keeping them involved is also part of Williford's strategy. He freely substitutes players depending on the situation. That might not go down well with some athletes, but the players for the most part have bought into the team concept.

"I know what I'm capable of," said wide receiver and defensive back Charlie Davis. "But I don't trip because coach knows what's best at the end of the day. The key thing is we want to win and whatever coach feels we should do we just go with it." "We need to communicate more on the field and make sure everybody is doing the right thing. If we do the right thing everything will fall into place and we'll be good," said junior wide receiver Quotangelo Temples. "We need to talk more on the field so we won't make those minor mistakes. That will help us keep developing and winning games," added Davis.

And coach Williford thinks he has the right student/athletes to have a successful season. He said they have been performing well in the classroom, and are dedicated to the sport - which he said is key to being successful, especially in the game of football. "You can't make a kid play football - he has to want to do it. I don't want to force any kid to do something they don't want to do because they're not going to give it their all," he said.

Playing sports has also helped many of the football players avoid some of the problems that have plagued the community with violence, although they did have one of their own players gunned down and killed last season. "This is extracurricular so instead of being out here on the streets just walking around doing stuff I don't have any business doing I'm just out here on the football field trying to get better and succeed in life," Temples said. "If you play a sport and you want to be great at it you're going to go to practice and not be worrying about the streets - that's why I want to play sports. There's too many people getting killed and I'm not about to be one of them," running back Avron Johnson said.

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MXC from front page



YVP youth participants took tour of MXC visiting medical training rooms used by MXC students.

psychology at Malcolm X in and holds three degrees. But he told the students they should never stop learning and embrace education.

"I use that information to make great big decisions in government about laws, budgeting and many more things. Learning is so powerful because the more you learn the more you realize what you didn't know. Also manners mean paying attention when someone else is talking. Learning and respect become very important as you enter the workplace," he told the students.

The second phase of the event was a Zoom presentation by Fulbright scholar, Dr. Bruno Reynaud De Sousa, who talked about the importance of adapting to new technologies in today's ever-changing work environment. He presented information about careers in the space program and the importance of taking math, science and technology courses while in high school. He also stressed that many jobs in today's workplace are quickly becoming obsolete and that the students need to prepare themselves for new positions that previously didn't even exist.

"A lot profession that used to be guaranteed are set to disappear in the next five years. If you're betting on one of these jobs it might not be the safest bet as jobs like truck driver, fast food workers are automated," De Sousa told the students.

The final phase of the event was a lecture and tour. The tour guide engaged the students in conversation about community colleges and how important it was for them to avoid the pitfalls in the streets. Then he took them on a tour of the medical wing of the college and visited classrooms and labs in the Health Science and Career program department. During the course of the tour the students learned about career opportunities as phlebotomy technicians, EMT's, medical billing, paramedics, pharmacists, mortuary science, and past personnel fitness trainers.

"The mission of Malcolm X College Health Sciences department is to educate the next generation of professionals in

the healthcare and wellness industries while promoting leadership, lifelong learning, and a commitment to improve health outcomes for the communities we serve," is the stated goal of the college and that is exactly what the Youth Prevention Program students experienced while visiting the campus as part of their summer program.

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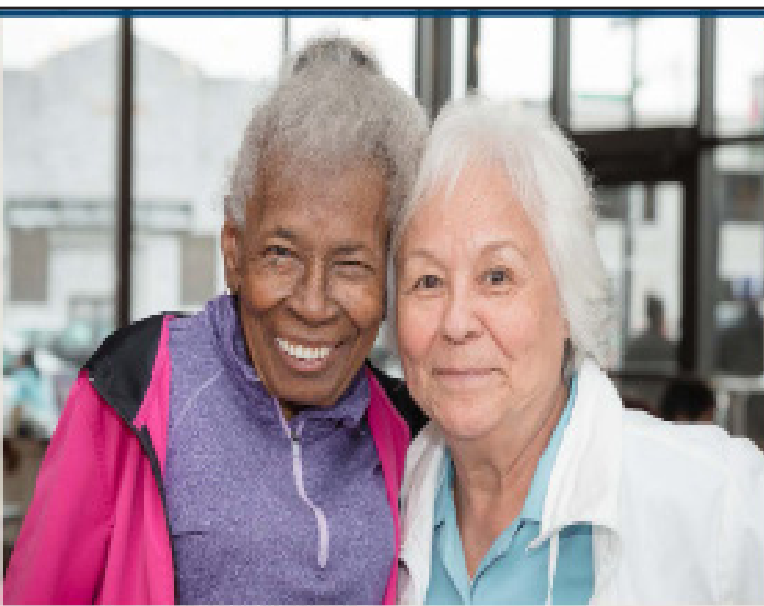
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Amundsen from front page

these programs is a testament to the community's unwavering resolve. Many who stand in protest of the park becoming a migrant shelter are highlighting what is now a contradiction in the mayor's words when he responded to the youth takeover of downtown this past spring.

"It is not constructive to demonize youth who have otherwise been starved of opportunities in their own communities," stated Mayor Johnson back in April 2023. Now just six months later, the order has been given to "starve" the youth of Austin by giving their park and the programs that run within it over to the migrant crisis. The people of Austin have responded with a resounding "No" and have committed their bodies to that point. After a press conference on the issue, many residents and activists set up camp in front of the doors of Amundsen Park refusing to allow authorities to pass.

They passed the news of the shutdown to unaware parents who showed up with their kids to use the popular space. Other residents brought the protesters food, heaters, and chairs to add comfort and show their support of the action. This show of unity and resistance is a proud moment for many of the residents of Austin and the Black community at large.

We all must stay tuned for updates on this ongoing resistance that underscores the resilience and solidarity of the Austin community and its allies as they fight to protect their community spaces and the future of their children's opportunity.

Said 29th Ward Alderman Chris Taliaferro, "city inspectors have completed a walk through of an alternative shelter space a mixed use property at 1900 N. Austin. The city is exploring possibilities. For now the park is in a stalemate with the immigrant move-in and programs at the park.

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