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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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Week of March 15, 2024

STATE PROPOSED BILL TO EXPAND STATE MEDICAID PROGRAM

COVERS NUTRITIONAL CARE SERVICES AND MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY

INSPIRED BY THE COOK COUNTY "FOOD IS MEDICINE RESOLUTION"



Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner, 2nd District

Dennis Deer- Cook County Board Commissioner of the 2nd District- joined by various fellow Commissioners of the Cook County Board, Illinois State Representative Norma Hernandez, Senator Lakesia Collins, Illinois State Senator, and Co-founders from Prestige Health, and other healthcare leaders, legislators, and appointed officials in publicly discussing the proposed HB5249



From podium (l-r)-Illinois State Rep. Norma Hernandez, Illinois Senator Lakesia Collins, representing Commissioner Dennis Chief of Staff Melva Brownlee, 2nd row-Prestige Health Executive Esther Macchoine, Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya, Prestige Executive James Kiamos

that addresses the food disparities throughout Illinois. The proposal was inspired by Commissioner Deer through his efforts in being the Chief sponsor of the recently passed "Food is Medicine" resolution at the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

HB 5249 would expand the Illinois Medicaid program to fully cover nutritional care services and medical nutrition therapy provided by a Registered

Dietitian to cover all Medicaid eligible Illinois residents in efforts to prevent, delay, manage, treat, or rehabilitate a chronic disease or condition.

In the Illinois Medicaid program, there is a gap in coverage for Medicaid beneficiaries in managed care and fee-for-service to be able to receive nutrition, education, coaching, and skill development and/or medical nutrition therapy (MNT), administered by a

Registered Dietitian (RD) Nutritionist (RDN)

New York State recently passed coverage of this service in their Medicaid program and other states have introduced legislation in their general assemblies to do the same. Currently, there is no dietician fee schedule under the Illinois Medicaid Program and the services are not reimbursable for most chronic conditions.

"This is an opportunity for us to continue moving our state in the right direction by focusing on preventative care and making sure that our communities have access to these medical nutrition services that will help them prevent chronic illness and ultimately save people and the state of Illinois money," says Representative Hernandez

"This proposed legislation addresses some of the most critical food disparity concerns and challenges throughout the state of Illinois. It's a common sense approach to driving down many of the alarming statistics that has led to rising healthcare

costs. But moreover, this legislation will save lives. "says Commissioner Deer.

Recent data shows an alarming increase in improper nutrition, food desserts, obesity, and food insecurities in Black and brown communities throughout Cook County.

In fact, Cook County Health officials are now confirming that over 34% of suburban Cook County adult residents are challenged with obesity. The rate is higher in Black and Brown communities.

In November of 2023, Commissioner Deer felt compelled to serve as the Chief sponsor in the passage of the "Food Is Medicine" resolution due to newly released national data that speaks volumes to the issues impacting suburban Cook County residents. The "Food is Medicine" resolution not only speaks to the many food desserts and the lack of proper nutrition impacting thousands of Cook County residents, but it also initiates an aggressive quality food campaign by the Cook County Board of Commissioners to bring relief to the abovementioned negative trends.

One in two adults in the United States has diabetes or pre-diabetes. Over ten percent of Cook County residents have

See Nutrition back page

Important!!!

FINAL DATE TO
MAKE YOUR VOTE
COUNT
TUESDAY
MARCH 19, 2024

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The North Lawndale Community News

The North Lawndale Community News is published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform the communities we serve on resources, events, and issues relevant to them. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale and its neighboring communities. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of community members.

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The 2024 Chicago Auto Show in full effect

by MS. Chevette M. Conley: Photojournalist

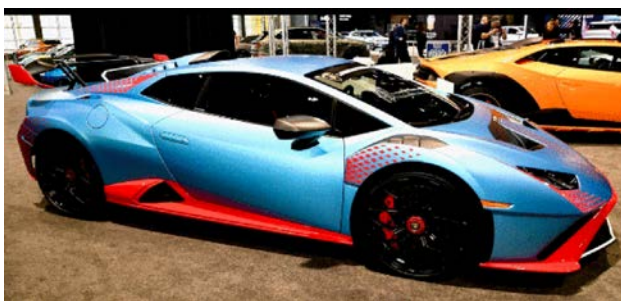


Photo by: Parthenia Luke



Photo by: Parthenia Luke

The 2024 Chicago Auto Show was in full effect this year at McCormick Place and featured many new and exciting exhibits. The show has a long history and started in 1901, making this the 116th edition of the event.

Attendees had the opportunity to test drive cars, and there was also simulated driving so people could feel what it might be like behind the wheel of one of the vehicles. The NASCAR exhibit had simulators that mimic a 2.2-mile race course through Chicago Streets.

There was a range of domestic and imported passenger cars, trucks, SUVs, minivans and experimental concept cars as well as antiques on display.

The auto show also helps out the community and \$2.8 million dollars was raised for local charities. The beneficiaries included:

100 Club of Illinois; Advocate Health Care; ALS United Greater Chicago; Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago; Bloomington-Normal YMCA; the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago; Cal's Angels; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet; Franciscan Community Benefit Services; Glenwood Academy; Habitat for Humanity; the Jesse White Tumbling Team; Lydia Home & Safe Families for Children; and Misericordia; Sertoma Star Services; Special Olympics Illinois; Susan G. Komen, Chicago; and Turning Pointe Autism Foundation.

The last day of the Show was President's Day and kids out of school got a chance to go to the show and participate in Family Day, which has been part of the show for ten years. Included was the Teen Innovation Summit, powered by Toyota and Toyota Lexus Minority Owners Dealership Association, featuring a fun and interactive format – including a DJ – to highlight the variety of careers within the industry. The Teen Innovation Summit is produced by an award-winning educational nonprofit organization that helps students from diverse backgrounds to discover and navigate career pathways in creativity, technology, and business.



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PUNCH 161

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Why Reparations Part I

Professor Zaki Amir

Damage done to anyone anywhere in the world is a reason for them to seek redress, is it not? Reparations are the topic of this article and it begins not with asking but telling or sharing information on its history.

When Britain abolished slavery in 1833, it paid millions in reparations, to over 47,000 British Citizen who enslaved our African ancestors as compensation for their financial losses.

Even those of Sweden, Denmark and much of South America received remuneration for the loss of their slaves. The same holds true in the United States of America where those that were slave owners received multiple reparations payments.

In 1862 in the District of Columbia enslavement ended with an order from Abraham Lincoln. Slaveholders were paid \$300 per slave and each slave that agreed to leave the country to never return was paid \$100 dollars; but for those of our ancestors who helped build America, nothing.

The Civil War supposedly fought to free our ancestors that brought about the Emancipation Proclamation was all but rescinded by Andrew Johnson who made “Confederate resettlement” possible enabling whites to recover land, including some they never owned in the first place. Federal money in the South after the Civil War built Schools and roads and restored the railroads.

Those funds earmarked for “Freedmen” that went to serve white institutions and business interests are reparations too. The tax codes was one way to inequitably support white people, as were subsidies for farmers, small business loans, education loans, grants, housing, and employment policies.

FHA and VA loans went exclusively to white people for decades until the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Whites have received reparations since America was founded.

Afrodescendants were victims of the foulest deaths slave masters could imagine, starting with being enslaved which caused “Civil Death” and having to labor from sun up to sundown for a period of 400 years.

Our ancestors were murdered for standing up for “Human Rights” guaranteed in the U. S. Constitution. Afrodescendant women raped at will by their slave masters or any white citizen with impunity and a court conviction, out of the question.

Most egregious is the case of Haiti, who won her freedom from France in 1804 but was undermined by the world’s white nations, including America and extorted by France to pay 150 million francs which was more than ten times Haiti’s annual revenue.

Haiti paid France the equivalent of \$21 billion though most of the loan was forgiven in 2010. She remains the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Close to home, Evanston, Illinois followed through on its proposal for reparations for its Afrodescendant citizens with payments tied to home ownership. California, New York and most recently Georgia and Kansas City began reparations studies.

Understanding reparations is quite easy. Afrodescendants have been in America and have not benefitted like other ethnic groups. We have been silent, but not anymore. We have a case for “Reparations.”

***** Research links*****

- 1.The Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehisi Coates - The Atlantic
- 2.Could San Francisco’s apology to Black residents lead to reparations? (usatoday.com)
- 3.Maryland considering reparations bill that would raise taxes for 'reinvestment' fund (msn.com)
- 4.California introduces first-in-nation slavery reparations package - POLITICO

5. Where Reparations Stand in the U.S. - The New York Times (nnytimes.com)
- 6.NY governor chooses Syracuse leader to examine slavery reparations: ‘This is long overdue’ (msn.com)
- 7.Home (illinois.gov) State of Illinois African Descent – Citizens Reparations Commission
- 8.Evanston, Illinois, becomes first U.S. city to pay reparations to Black residents (nbcnews.com)
- 9.Office of African-American Affairs in Chicago (chicagoreparations.org)
- 10.WHY AMERICAN BLACKS DESERVE REPARATIONS – Chicago Tribune
- 11.Activists descend on Atlanta warning of 'serious consequences' if lawmakers don't back \$80 BILLION reparations push, despite cash crunch in Georgia's hospital and prison systems (msn.com)

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PUNCH 12

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Marshall wins Collins Regional Story

By Todd Thomas

The battle for the Collins Regional lived up to expectations and the Marshall Commandos and Manley Wildcats put it all on the floor, but in the end it was Marshall winning 67-64 to take the title and move on to the Sectional at Orr.

The difference in the outcome could be attributed to Marshall's dominance in the paint and offensive rebounding. Missed shots were often followed up by rebounds and putbacks that frustrated the Wildcats.

The Commandos were led in scoring by freshman Britt Williams with 17 points, while the Wildcats were led by Jonathan Calmese who scored 17, and played exceptional defense in the loss.

Neither team was accurate for the field and the shooting percentages were low, but that was caused by nasty defense on both sides.

Neither team led by more than eight points, with Marshall leading most of the way, and at the half Marshall led 28-24. Manley led 49-46 after three quarters, owing much of the success to J. Love who scored ten points in the period.

But down the stretch the Commandos were the most poised, and pulled ahead to get the crucial victory.

West Side boys basketball teams Marshall and Westinghouse advanced to Sectional play. Marshall won their game against Richards High School by a score of 64-58. Chicago Marshall Varsity Boys Basketball team lost their game against Chicago Hope Academy High School by a score of 66-68. Chicago Hope went on to 3rd place in the Illinois' Division 1A basketball competition.



Marshall wins 67-64 over Manley to take the title and move on to the Sectional.

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Judge Shelby grew up on the west side of Chicago and graduated from St. Angela School, Providence St. Mel, Morehouse College, and Chicago-Kent College of Law. Judge Shelby is a family man who is married with two children. While his daughter is starting first grade in the fall, his son is a rising senior at Howard University. Judge Shelby served as a prosecutor for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for 15 years. Judge Shelby consistently volunteers for his community by mentoring youth, coaching youth sports, speaking at community outreach programs, and serving on boards dedicated to improving the community.

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★ Coach for Youth Basketball



Manley High Basketball

By Todd Thomas



Manley defeated Austin 71-59 at UIC Credit Union 1 Arena

Manley defeated Austin 71-59 at UIC Credit Union 1 Arena for the White Conference city championship, and had aspirations for a deep playoff run before losing to Marshall in the Collins Regional title game in February.

Manley’s basketball team has steadily improved, and after winning the Blue Conference title last year, moved up to the White Conference this season. Last season was the first year under head coach Carlos Toliver, who came over after a successful run at North Lawndale College Prep in the more highly-touted Red Conference. “The strength of our schedule is so strong and we play the toughest competition,” Toliver said. “We play competition so tough that it doesn’t matter what conference we’re in. Red or White, Manley is a team you might not want to play.”

The Wildcats (21-10) did have to work hard for the city championship against Austin (10-11) and only led by one point at halftime. They defeated Austin handily in the regular season, but Toliver has learned anything can happen come playoff time. “Austin came to play, and they were throwing blows. They were fighting for their life, and they wanted the city championship as much as we did. We made some adjustments at halftime and executed down the stretch to win the game,” Toliver said.

A big part of Manley’s success has been the emergence of 6-7 sophomore Jaali Love, who’s averaging 16 points and nine rebounds per game. He said he started working at his game relatively late, but despite the lack of experience still exudes confidence. “I just started taking basketball seriously last year. I’m just starting to get in tune with basketball. Coach says that basketball is a lifestyle and I’m slowly adapting that into my life. Everything I do is involved in basketball. I watch basketball 24/7,” Love said. “I’m not cocky, I’m confident. To me I’m humble, but I’m not going to go out there and tell anybody they can beat me.”

The Wildcats will also need senior guard Johnathan Calmese to play well for them to succeed in the playoffs. The Farragut transfer leads Manley in scoring, assists and steals and brings Red Conference experience with him, although he also thinks some White Conference teams, including Manley also play high-level basketball. “It’s an amazing difference in the intensity and level of play in the Red Conference, but this year it feels like the White matches up pretty well with the Red as far as talent. A lot of white schools play red schools on their schedule and beat them or keep up with them,” Calmese said.

Manley is in Class 1A and currently only has about 100 students attending the school. That is not where they want to be, but for the time being the low enrollment

is working for senior center Isaiah Gardner, who said the class size works well for him after transferring from Thornwood, a school with just under 2,000 students. “Coming to Manley was the best decision I ever made, because of the number of students here you get a lot of exposure. At my other school Thornwood there’s 2,000 kids so you can get lost in the shuffle. The staff and the coaches here have individual relationships with the kids and they can cater to you - even beyond basketball it was a great decision, he said.

But, growth is on the horizon and the success of the basketball team might be a catalyst to help increase awareness of what the school has to offer, Toliver said.

“We’re starting to change the culture around here and kids are starting to understand that Manley’s a safe place to go to school. It’s a positive place and Manley knows how

to win. We have a good athletics director and principle that cares about the kids. Winning always brings positivity,” he said.

And Gardner has a playoff mentality that he hopes his teammates share so they can keep winning in the state playoffs.

“I’m a senior I ‘m going to go hard in practice and go as far as I can. Go big or go home,” he said.” As seniors it’s our job to let everybody on the team know that. Try to make everybody step up and play their role. That’s how we’ve been winning basketball games. We just hope that we can keep the same intensity,” he said.

Although Manley won the White city championship they won’t be moving up to the Red Conference next year. That distinction belongs to Crane, who won the White West

See Manley page 11



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Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

1. What do you need to apply? Applicants must upload a photo of their Social Security card and state or driver's license ID while completing the application. If you do not have these documents before applying and require assistance in obtaining them, please reach out to info@nlen.org.
2. How can I get help with my application? Application support is available through community organizations such as Skills and North Lawndale Employment Network (1111 N. Harlem) onsite starting March 11th from 10 am to 2 pm.

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Manley from page 10

Conference with a 7-2 conference record, while Manley finished in third place with a 7-3 record.

Coach Toliver said that staying in the White is fine with him for the time being, because he wants to build a strong enough team that will allow them to move up to the

Red conference and stay there and not end up back in the White, which happens to many teams. "It's a process, and we're still building from the bottom up," he said.



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Nutrition from front page

been diagnosed with this disease. Moreover, 33 million people in our nation have a lack of access to quality food. Even more alarming is that the same number of people have a higher probability of chronic disease diagnosis.

The Food is Medicine resolution correctly defines the issue of food insecurities throughout Cook County as a lack of inconsistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, the 2021 Hunger in Our Community Status Report and the Greater Chicago Food Depository projected that over 613,000 Cook County residents in food insecure households.

If HB 5249 is passed through the Illinois General Assembly, it would allow eligible Illinois residents to have access to healthy foods. In addition, the legislation would generate over 300 million dollars in health savings, would achieve health equity, reduce chronic conditions, reduce mortality rates, and reduce food insecurities by 42%.

Commissioner Deer adds, “The south and west suburbs of Cook County share the greatest burden of low income and low food access. COVID-19 has placed additional burdens on these trends. We are the greatest nation on earth, but we cannot stand idle and allow our residents to continue down this road to death. I am grateful to have the support of President Preckwinkle and the full Cook County Board in this effort. But I’m equally grateful to Representative Hernandez and Senator Collins for taking this measure to the General Assembly. Clearly Food is Medicine.”

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