

JACKSON ADVOCATE

THE VOICE OF BLACK MISSISSIPPIANS

WOMAN'S DAY

The Historic Farish Street Baptist Church will celebrate its 60th Woman's Day Observance on April 22, 2012, at 11 a.m. The featured speaker will be Cheryl Weakley Turner, Southern Regional Director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For additional information, call 601 355-0636.

VOL. 74, NO. 27

APRIL 19-25, 2012

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

www.jacksonadvocateonline.com

SECTION A

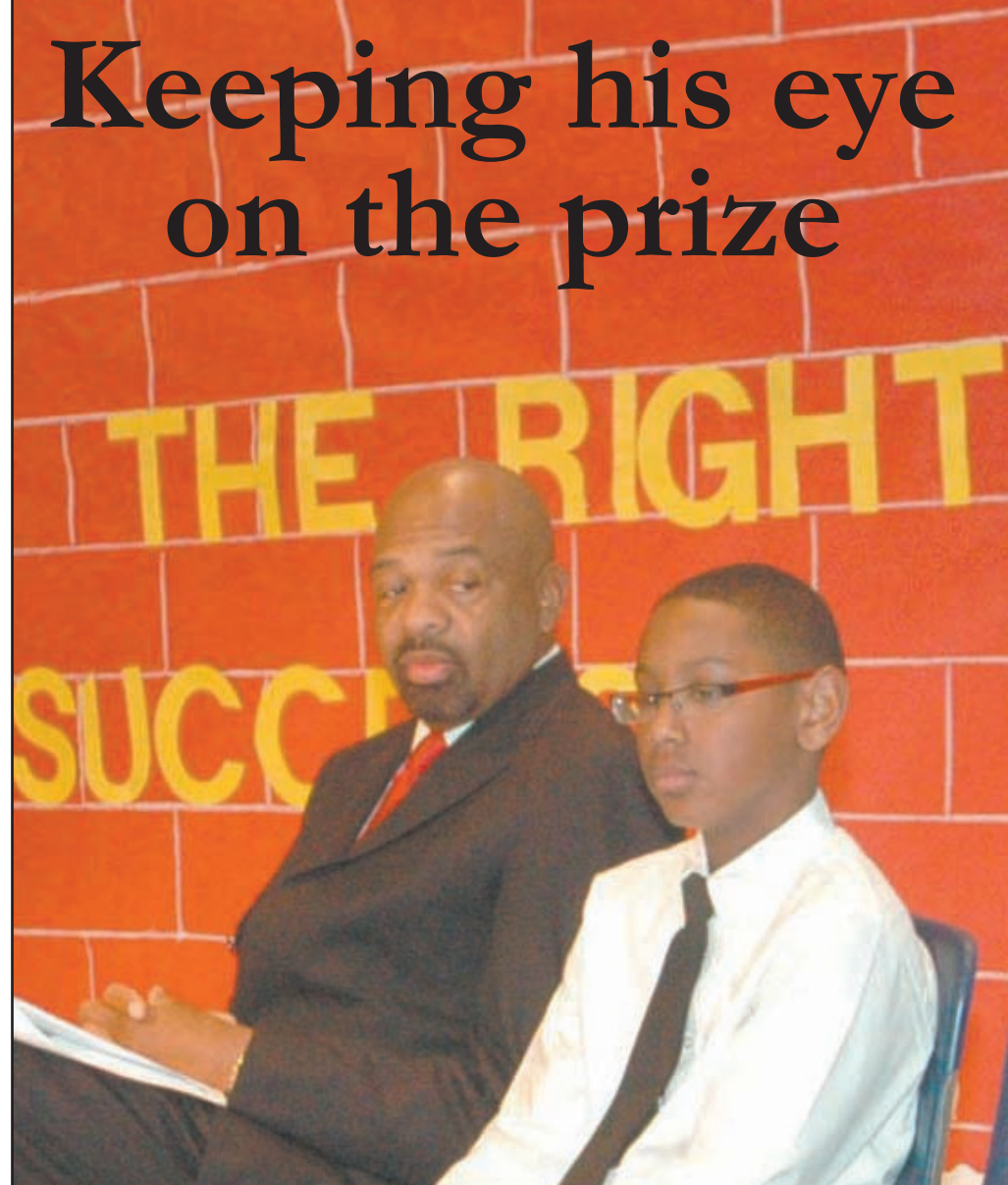
50¢



Bravo!

DeAnna Esther Marie Tisdale performed her graduation recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Apr. 14, 2012. Her performance was so stunning that members of the audience, including her voice teacher, Dr. Maryann Kyle, couldn't hold back the tears. Family and friends came from across the country to support DeAnna's dream of making the Metropolitan Opera her stage to share her gift. DeAnna will receive her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance in May from the University of Southern Mississippi. She will study this summer in New York City with opera sensation Martina Arroyo before moving to Boston in the fall to study at the Boston Conservatory for two years. DeAnna is a product of Adhiambo School, Blackburn Middle School, Murrah High School/APAC and Tougaloo College. She is the daughter of the late Charles Tisdale and Alice Tisdale and attends New Jerusalem Church.

(Photo: Kevin Robinson) See story on page 5A.



The look of pride beamed from the faces of both guest speaker James E. Graves and Albert Jackson, who introduced him at the "Men of Honor" program at Gladys Noel Bates Elementary School in South Jackson. Judge Graves serves in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Albert is a fifth grade scholar. A pinning ceremony and pledge of manhood was conducted by Principal Mitchell Shear and teachers Kelvin Neal and Mario Miller. Student, Alphonso Johnson, was honored for his academic performance of receiving all A's the entire academic year. A total of 72 male students received recognition at the Men of Honor program on Tuesday, April 17, 2012. (Advocate photo: Alice Thomas-Tisdale)

Bates to honor 101 gems

JANS – Bates Elementary School will honor 101 female students on Friday, April 20, 2012, at 9 a.m. for outstanding academic achievement this school year. The speaker will be the Honorable Judge Denise Owens of the Hinds County Chancery Court.



Judge Owens

The school is located at 3180 McDowell Road Extension in Jackson. The public is invited.

"This is our first year to host a program as this one, and we have designated it as our inaugural G.E.M.S. (Girls Excelling in Mississippi Schools) that celebrates all female students who have achieved honor roll status at least one term in grades first through fifth," said Micca Knox, School Counselor.

"Due to the outcry from female students at Bates who had knowledge of the school's

See Bates on 15A

Teach For America welcomes new corps members to the Delta

By James E. Sulton, III, Ed.D.
JA Education Correspondent

After donning the cap and gown laden with their school colors this spring, Mary Alex Street and Caleb Herod will join the prestigious ranks of a not-for-profit committed to educating children living in poverty. Teach for America (TFA) has been involved in the Mississippi Delta since 1991, and today at least 540 corps members are involved in the regions' schools according to the organization's website.

Street, who is a Jackson native and attended both public and private



Mary Alex Street



Caleb Herod

schools as a child, recognized the disparities in the quality of education at a young age. "I heard about TFA when I was in high school, and in

college I really started to get interested in education policy," she said. After her spring graduation from Ole Miss, Street will participate in a summer training program before teaching at Walker Elementary School. "I hope to do the best I can to serve my students, and I hope that my students feel loved and respected by me," she said. Street also stated, "Any young person must feel that their teacher has a vested interest in them and I will care just as much about their well-being as I do about their grades."

Herod was always impressed with TFA's presence in the community,

the students at Ole Miss who worked with TFA, and was encouraged to complete a corps member application by his classmates he said. Now that he has been accepted to TFA's 2012 corps, Herod said, "I want to be the best teacher that I can possibly be." Herod is no stranger to the hard work and sacrifice that it will take to accomplish this goal, as both of his parents are former educators. "I want to represent for my community and do my best to make them proud as I work to ignite a passion in my students," he said.

Both Street and Herod expect to

make a difference in the lives of young people and are fully committed to take on the challenges of public education in the Delta they said. Street expects "a lot of hard work, a lot of laughs, new friends, great stories and a fuller understanding of how I can best help the education system of the state I love." Herod said that he looks forward to giving back to his community and "I expect to make my parents proud."

For more information about Teach For America, visit www.teachforamerica.org or contact the Mississippi Delta regional office at 662-234-6206.



District 11 Senator Robert L. Jackson (right) welcomed former Mississippi Senator Arthur James Tate to the Senate floor on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. Jackson presented Tate with Senator Concurrent Resolution #599 honoring Tate for being the first African American to serve in the Mississippi Senate since Reconstruction. Tate filled a vacant seat in the Mississippi Senate during a Special Election in 1979 and served a one-year term, replacing Ray Montgomery, who was appointed to a judgeship. The former senator represented Senate District 15A, which consisted of Holmes, Madison and Yazoo Counties. Tate is viewed as one of the most influential figures in paving the way for the current minority representation in the Mississippi legislature.



Lending their voices to secure improved workers compensation legislation at the State Capitol on Tuesday were Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights staffers Willie Bell Tart, Rebecca Myles and Nita Carter of Greenville, MS. The primary purposes of the Workers' Compensation Law (H.B. 555) are to pay timely temporary and permanent disability benefits to every worker who legitimately suffers a work-related injury or occupational disease arising out of and in the course of his employment, to pay reasonable and necessary medical expenses resulting from the work-related injury or occupational disease, and to encourage the return to work of the worker. (Advocate photo: Alice Thomas-Tisdale)