



**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH
2017**

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WOMEN

THIS MONTH

Emmett Till Rally at State Capitol demands justice



Kimberly Morgan-Myles at podium and supporters of the Till Rally for Justice at State Capitol Feb. 27. PHOTOS BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

The family of Emmett Till held a rally February 27 at the State Capitol in Jackson and called for justice to prevail regarding his brutal murder.

While visiting his relatives in 1955, 14-year-old Till from Chicago, was accused by Carolyn Bryant (now Donham) of whistling and making advances

toward her. Bryant's husband at the time (Roy Bryant) and his brother John Milam disfigured the youth and cast his body in the Tallahatchie River.

Bryant and Milam, now both deceased, were acquitted by an all-white male jury. Duke University scholar Timothy Tyson, however, reports in his book "Blood of Emmett Till" that Carolyn confessed to him that

her charge against Till was a lie. Till's relatives and supporters spoke in a collective voice, demanding that the Department of Justice reopen the case and bring Carolyn to justice. "So for me, this whole situation has just reopened a wound that has been trying to close for 60 years," Aricka Gordon-Taylor, Till's cousin and administrator of his estate, stated. "Every time the

wound tries to completely heal, something else happens."

According to Till's relative Priscilla Sterling, "Kenneth Stokes was the one who gave me the apology, not the state governor, not the attorney general."

Some from the educational arena spoke in support of the Till family's call for justice. "How

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Scholarship banquet at College Hill Church



Debra McGee, Paulette Walker, Rod Paige, Stephanie Paige, Denise Griffin

By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

"Honoring the Legacy: In Pursuit of Excellence" was the theme of the Annual Heritage Samuel L. Bailey Scholarship banquet held at College Hill M.B. Church Saturday night. This yearly event honored the late Samuel L. Bailey, a civil rights advocate who worked for racial equality in Mississippi. Jennifer Steele-Wilson presided over the event.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Rod Paige, interim president of Jackson State University. He was introduced by Debra McGee.

Paige, speaking to a large

crowd in the family life center said, "We all have a responsibility to those who did the work for us during slavery and segregation." "If I were to title my message it would be "A Message of Hope."

Paige took the audience back 400 years to the beginning of slavery. He reminded us that our ancestors had been in slavery longer than the country had been out of slavery. He talked about how our ancestors had been loaded on crowded slave ships and taken against their will to America from the African shores. He said, "many did not survive that jour-

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National president of Delta Sigma Theta in Jackson for Founder's Day

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

The national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. pulled no punches when she addressed her membership in Jackson Feb. 25. "Let's keep it real," Paulette C. Walker told her sorority sisters and others at their Founders Day luncheon held in Downtown Jackson.

Walker challenged sorority members to "dare to be bold and courageous" in their service to community, the cornerstone of the sorority's mission.

The Founders Day luncheon was hosted by Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and drew more than 500 Deltas and guests at the Jackson Marriott Hotel.

The theme of the gathering was "A Sisterhood of Leadership - Past, Present and Future." The women honored the 22 founders of the 104-year-old public service organization.

"I'm going to challenge each Delta and non-Delta to keep it real and focus on uncompromising service to community; and the reason I say uncompromising is because we don't apologize for what we do," Walker said.

Walker asked that Deltas be mindful of the purpose set forth by their founders. "Are you real; are you unique; are you authentic?" she asked. "And what do you have to offer in service to the community?"

Denise Griffin-Whittington, president of the Jackson Alumni Chapter, said Founders Day is important to sorority members because "it is a time for us to show our love and respect for our 22 illustri-



Paulette C. Walker, National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., speaking at Founders Day.

ous founders ... and give thanks to God for sustaining our sisterhood for 104 years."

"We were honored to have our national president join us this year, and we enjoyed and appreciated her

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New Hope Baptist Church holds Back in the Day-Black History grand finale

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

New Hope Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Jerry Young, held the grand finale of their 6th Annual Back in the Day-Black History Celebration February 23. The church's last of a four-part series that reflected struggles, resistance, pride, dignity, accomplishments, responsibility, accountability and respect. "Celebrating Our History & Culture Through Our Music" was the series' theme.

International recording artist Cynthia Goodloe-Palmer and the legendary Paul Porter brought the house down during the spirit-filled, melodious celebration.

Goodloe-Palmer said to the listeners in her hypothetical illustration, "I can imagine what the slaves went through and can imagine what our foreparents went through when they were picking cotton. They sang songs that spoke of trading troubles for transitioning from earth to paradise." "This music," she said, "is all about not lifting up the name of Jesus to you, but through you." Referencing "the bitter heartaches of living in Mississippi," Goodloe-Palmer belched the tunes "Prayer Changes Things," "A Better Day," and "I'm Going to Heaven."

Porter shared a near death experience. "Serving the Lord will pay off. I had an aneurism. Physicians gave me up to die. I had three surgeries and I called God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I'm trying to keep the fire under my shoes," he said. In the midst of his



Student performers at New Hope's Black History grand finale.

testimony, the artist gave a soul stirring rendition of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives, and 'Saints Hold On.'"

Backed by musicians as Goodloe-Palmer was, the songwriter called upon the crowd to praise God with instruments as he cited Psalm 150. He then led New Hope Combined Choirs in a fiery rendition of the song "Two Wings." Porter maintained that in heaven there would be no black or white; no family problems, no oppression, etc. "You have to keep pushing. You have to keep going. Heaven is on the way. You can't give up," he said. On that note, he sang "You Can't Give Up."

Harvey Watkins, of the world renown Canton Spirituals sang "Oh Lord, You've Been

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