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The Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc. Connecting Harlem, Queens, Brooklyn and The Bronx

COMMUNITY HARLEM NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 31 No. 15 April 10, 2025 – April 16, 2025 FREE

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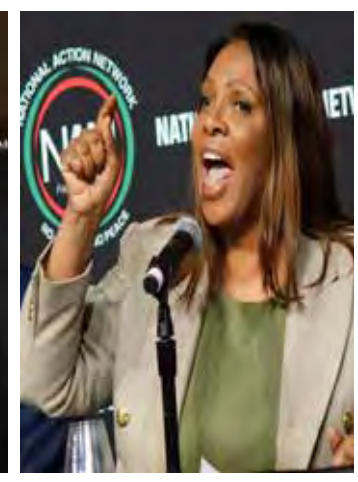

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc. will publish positive news and information. Our mission is to deliver "good" and informative news to our readers focusing on health, education, housing, business and employment opportunities. We look for and publish results, not problems. We promote businesses, opportunities and events happening in the communities we serve. We are dedicated to providing our readers with valuable information they can use to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and our communities.

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PAT STEVENSON

One hundred youth from all over the country went to Disney last week to experience the Disney Dreamers Academy. Harlem Community News has been covering this event for the past 18 years. I personally covered the event for 11 years before I became ill from breast cancer, then chronic arthritis. However, we have many editors who are always willing to cover this very positive event for our youth. These 100 youth are selected from thousands who apply. Those selected come to Disney where they are mentored by celebrities, Disney executives and staff. The objective is to expose them to their "dream career" and motivate them to believe they can achieve whatever they want to be in life. I enjoyed covering this event for 11 years because I always came home motivated to be better and do more. Thank you Charley Anderson for covering this event for Harlem News in 2025. (see pages 14-15.)

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Pat Stevenson
Celebrating
31 years Publishing

Mayor Adams Unveils "Axe the Tax for the Working Class"

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, earlier this week announced "Axe the Tax for the Working Class," an ambitious proposal to bring significant tax relief to working-class families and return over $63 million to more than 582,000 New Yorkers. The plan would eliminate the New York City Personal Income Tax for filers with dependents living at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line, as well as lower city personal income taxes for filers immediately above that threshold too. Mayor Adams will advocate for the proposal as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) New York state budget with the support of New York State Senator Leroy Comrie and New York State Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, who will introduce it during the upcoming legislative session. If passed into law, Axe the Tax for the Working Class could bring relief to working-class families as soon as tax year 2025

Axe the Tax for the Working Class builds on the Adams administrations' continued efforts to help put money back into the pockets of working-class New Yorkers. In 2022, Mayor Adams successfully pushed Albany to expand the New York City Earned Income Tax Credit (NYC EITC) for the first time in nearly two decades, delivering more than $345 million in tax relief to New Yorkers over the 2023 tax season. When combined, both Axe the Tax for the Working Class and the new, enhanced NYC EITC would put more than a collective $408 million back into the pockets of 2 million New Yorkers and effectively eliminate New York City income taxes for a family of four making less than $46,350.

"Extreme costs are driving many working-class families out of cities like New York, and while, for too many decades, across too many administrations, we let these problems languish, our administration said enough is enough. Today, we are unveiling 'Axe the Tax for the Working Class,' a bold proposal to eliminate New York City income taxes for hundreds of thousands of working-class New Yorkers and their families here in the five boroughs and lower taxes for even more of our city's residents," said Mayor Adams. "This ambitious plan will put more than $63 million back into the pockets of over 582,000 New Yorkers, and, when combined with the New York City Earned Income Tax Credit, will put more than $400 million back into the pockets of 2 million working-class New Yorkers. I did not become mayor just to watch other families struggle the way that mine did, so this money will help more families cover rent, pay for prescriptions, and pick up groceries. On issue after issue, New York City is leading the nation, so we're hopeful more cities across the country will 'Axe the Tax.' I want to thank Senator Comrie and Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn for agreeing to introduce this legislation, as well as HTC and 32BJ for their support. We look forward to working with Albany over the next few months to pass this landmark proposal and give working-class families the relief they finally deserve."

"From day one of our administration, Mayor Adams tasked me with supporting the families and working-class New Yorkers who keep our city running. That's why we are turning New York into a 'City of Yes' with the most pro-housing zoning changes in our city's history, increasing opportunities for good-paying jobs, and putting money back into working-people's pockets," said First Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer. "Our 'Axe the Tax' proposal will give $63 million back to working people and ensure that over 582,000 New Yorkers will benefit from having more money for groceries, child care, health care, and the needs of everyday life. We want all New Yorkers to know that they can raise their family here in the five boroughs and thrive."

Axe the Tax for the Working Class would eliminate New York City Personal Income Taxes for filers with dependents — largely families with children — living at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line. Additionally, the proposal would gradually phase out the city personal income tax for filers immediately above — within $5,000 — of 150 percent of the federal poverty line.

PONDER THIS! Wrong and Strong is not Acceptable Behavior

By Hazel Rosetta Smith

We all know people who primarily function on the premise that they are entitled to have what they want, when they want it, no matter how it may affect the well-being of others. Self-centered egomaniacs will look past you to get what they want. They will call you by every name, other than a child of God, to brand their name and secure their fame.

We are witnessing as a nation how hurtful and abusive inflated self-confidence can be in leadership. Publicly displayed disrespect and negative accusations are mean and disruptive. Words are spread across social media instantly at the click of a button when someone is determined to get their point across.

Common sense ought to tell a person their wicked words shall come back and bite them in the butt. Shame ought to say you have gone too far with thoughtless words that flow like volcanic lava lacking sympathy and empathy across airwaves and the Internet. Actions speak louder than words, but words are forever engraved in the annals of history.

When overindulgence in self-confidence and egotistical meanderings has been exposed, one needs to accept the reality, there is shame in your game. When your success is grounded by demeaning the advancements of others to highlight yourself, allotting time delving into trivial pursuits of needless information to back up foolish accusations, there is a problem at hand.

This nation is in the throes of profound political and civil unrest, and it is dangerous. Evil saturations of fear and terror are spread about without any discernment of the ramifications that come when the fire of hate is ignited in people waiting for the call.

Hopefully, enough of us are seeking what is just and fair. We see what happens when someone or a multitude of people believe they are above the law of the land and God's spiritual laws that govern the universe.

When you think you have the upper hand, it would be wise to look around and see who is holding up your hand. Eventually, the truth will prevail and the hands of those who hung in there supporting your heartless policies, will fall by the wayside and make space for hope and renewal to step up to the plate. This is the time to believe we can do better in this nation because we know we deserve better than what we have been handed.

In the meantime, we watch and wait for the truth to sound the healing call that enough is enough. As a nation of rational thinkers, we must do our part to protect those who are courageous enough to stand at the village gate and deny evil its ugly stance in the land. Thank God for the sacrificial lambs who do what too many of us would not do.

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Managing Editor of the New York Beacon News. Contact: misshazel@twc.com and online at www.hazelrosettasmith.com]

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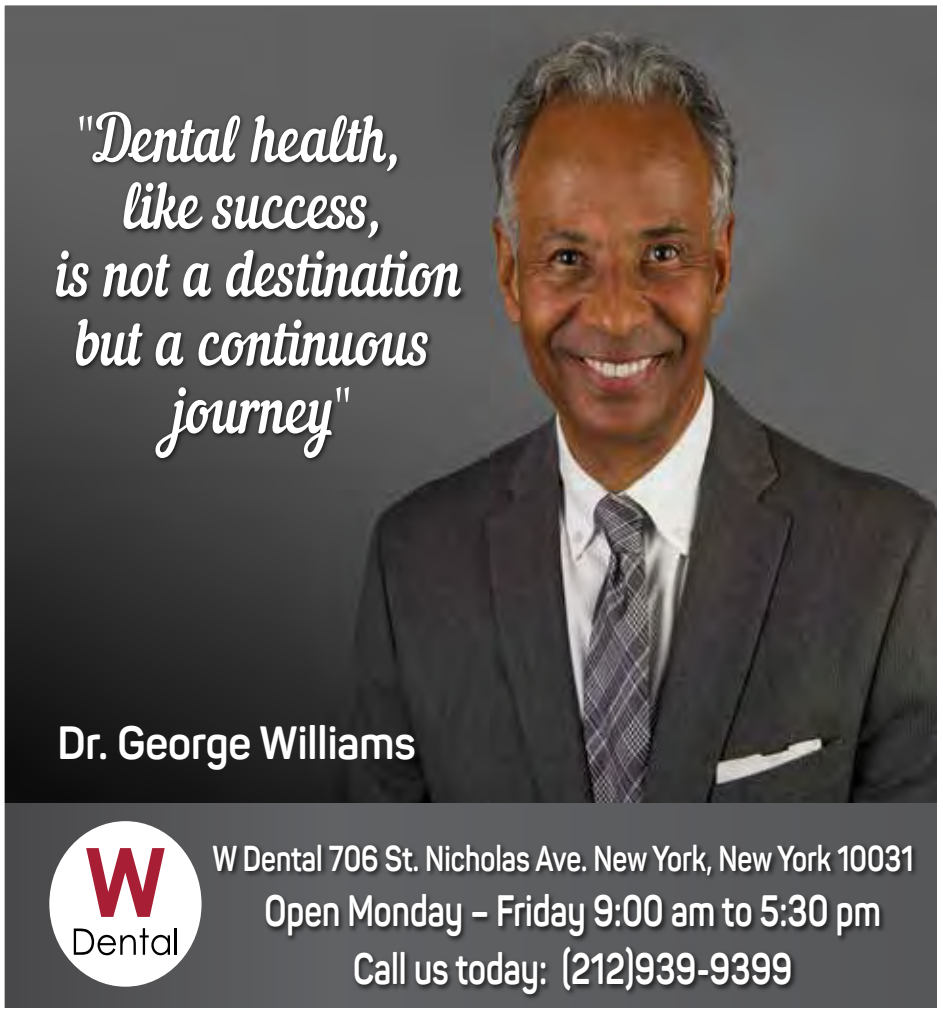

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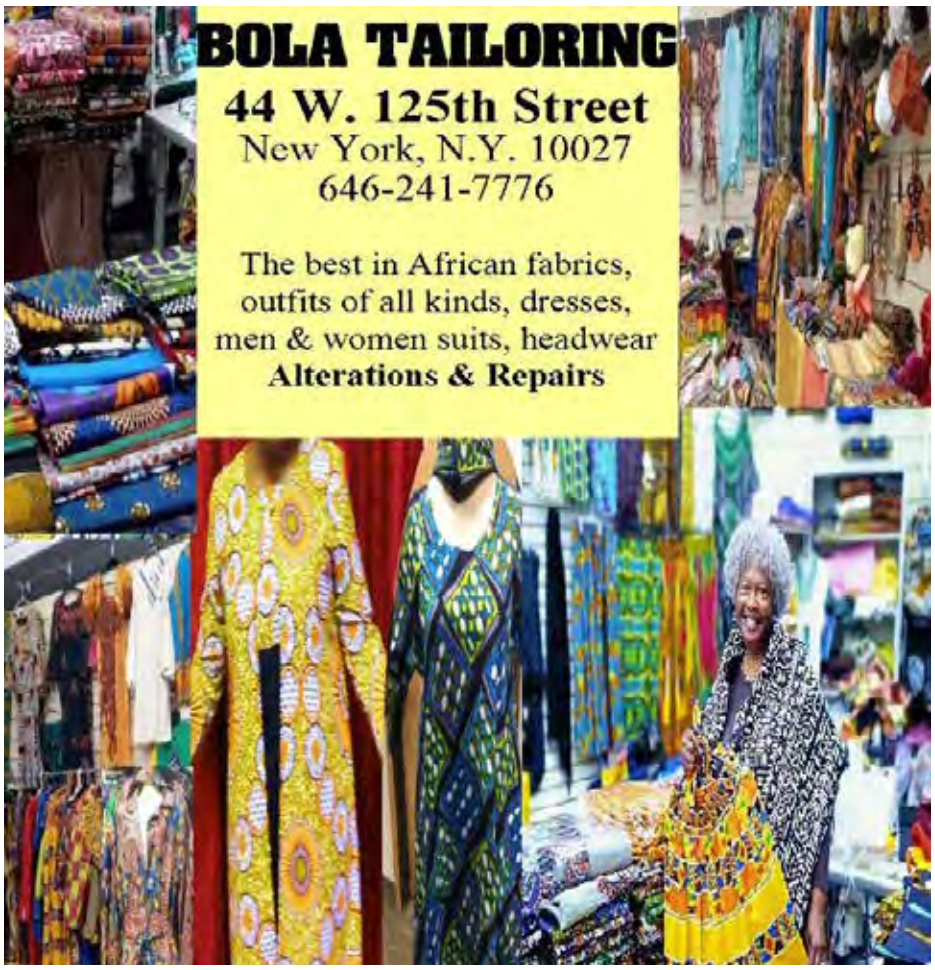

Reducing Crime in Our City and Keeping New Yorkers Safe

By Mayor Eric Adams

Our North Star has always been keeping New York City streets, subways, and communities safe. This is a pro-public safety administration, and we know that in order for New York City to be the best place to raise a family, our neighborhoods need to be safe.

Since day one, our administration has been dedicated to making sure New Yorkers are safer and feel safer. We have put thousands of more cops on the beat, taken over 21,000 illegal guns out of the hands of criminals and off our streets, and made our subways safer while getting vulnerable New Yorkers the help they need. The numbers are in, and the first quarter crime data for this year shows our public safety strategy continues to work. We have now had five straight quarters of decreasing crime — since January 1, 2024 — and we are shattering crime record after crime record.

The first three months of the year saw the lowest number of shootings in recorded history. Since the start of modern crime tracking, there has never been this few shooting incidents in ANY quarter in ANY year in our city's recorded history. New York City also saw the second fewest number of murders in recorded history. Robbery and grand larceny are in their sixth consecutive month of decline, and robberies continue their double-digit dip.

Transit crime has also gone down by double digits in the first quarter — for all boroughs that have subway service. This is thanks to the surge of police in our transit system where we need them most, on our trains and platforms.

We have listened to New Yorkers and worked to make our city safer. The success of our public safety strategy is due to an intensified focus of police officers assigned to hot spot "zones" across the five boroughs.

Our data-driven, precision policing model has already led to the removal of over 1,300 illegal firearms in 2025, including 57 untraceable 3-D printed "ghost guns," and brings the total to over 21,000 illegal firearms taken off the streets since the beginning of our administration.

These gun seizures directly influenced an almost 29 percent drop in shooting victims in March and a 23.4 percent decrease in shooting victims for the quarter. That is 50 less shooting victims so far this year alone, which means more lives are being saved.

And we are starting to see some promising statistics when we look at retail theft — which is down over 8 percent year to date. Retail theft hurts our businesses, our workers, our customers, and our quality of life. New Yorkers don't feel like things are working when everything from toothpaste to laundry detergent is locked up. We have been clear: we will not let shoplifters and organized crime rings prey on New York City businesses.

Additionally, thanks to steps we have taken, traffic deaths have reached a historic low in the first quarter of 2025. Over the last three years, our administration has created a record 1.5 million square feet of new pedestrian space across the five boroughs; improved over 5,700 intersections, which has led to better visibility and drivers turning more slowly; installed 87.5 miles of protected bike lanes; and, because speeding is a factor in over a quarter of traffic deaths, we worked with lawmakers in Albany to keep our speed cameras operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are also working with Albany to expand the use of cameras at red lights to deter drivers from running red lights instead of coming to a stop.

These measures also resulted in decreased traffic injuries this quarter and show forward progress toward our Vision Zero goals. We've seen declines in injuries across the board, with drops in injuries among pedestrians, cyclists, motorized two-wheeler riders, and motor vehicle occupants. Despite this progress, we know tragic traffic fatalities — like the recent crash that took the lives of three individuals, including two children, and left one child fighting for his life in hospital — still take place and we must continue to change driving behaviors.

We will not rest until all New Yorkers are safe: at home, on our transit system, and on our streets. Because of our steadfast focus on public safety, and the hard work of the brave men and women of the NYPD, New York City remains the safest big city in America,

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Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now

By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

Too many prospective first-time home buyers are getting distracted by outside influences that are preventing them from successfully moving forward to complete the purchase of their home. I understand that sometimes unexpected circumstances will occur that can throw you off course momentarily. You must however maintain focus while overcoming these temporary obstacles and keep your eyes on seeing the home buying process to its completion.

Here are a few suggestions to help you minimize distractions and maximize your efforts: (1) Start with determining a projected purchase date. Use this date as the anticipated target date when you expect to become 'mortgage ready.' To become 'mortgage ready,' will need to have money saved. In today's market this amount will be at least a minimum of $35,000 or more. You must have an acceptable credit score (preferably 650 or higher) with 3-4 lines of active credit accounts and a minimum of two consecutive years work history. These are the basic requirements most of the major lenders will request from you when applying for a pre-approval letter.

This date will help you maintain focus throughout the home buying process. It will help you push pass those times when you feel like giving up. You will remember that you are on a mission. Let nothing impede your home buying progress. If a minor setback does unfortunately occur, just revise your projected purchase date to reflect the additional time now required for you to complete your goal. Whatever you do, remain focused. Do not quit and see the home buying process to its completion.

(2) Create and use your monthly household budget to anticipate how much you can save each month in determining a date. You want to aggressively save as much money as possible for your

home. The more you can save, the sooner you will be ready to buy. Now it will become critical to identify and eliminate all wasteful and unnecessary spending. Join our Lending Circles savings and credit building program if you are having difficulty saving on your own. If you are interested in this program, go to the website – www.lendingcircles.org – enter my zip code 10039.

(3) Reminders to help stay motivated. Put your projected purchase date on your mirrors, the refrigerator and carry it around in your wallet or purse. Take a picture of your dream house or apartment. Visual images can be a powerful tool in making your dream become a reality. Continue to remain positive throughout the process. Each step will bring you closer to your goal.

Take aim at your target. If you are not shooting at something, you probably will not hit anything! Before you know it, another year will be gone, and you will be in the same situation, wondering what happened.

If you are interested in attending the workshop or have questions regarding the home buying process, contact Rev. Dr. Charles Butler at (212) 281 4887 ext. 231or email at cbutler@hcci.org.

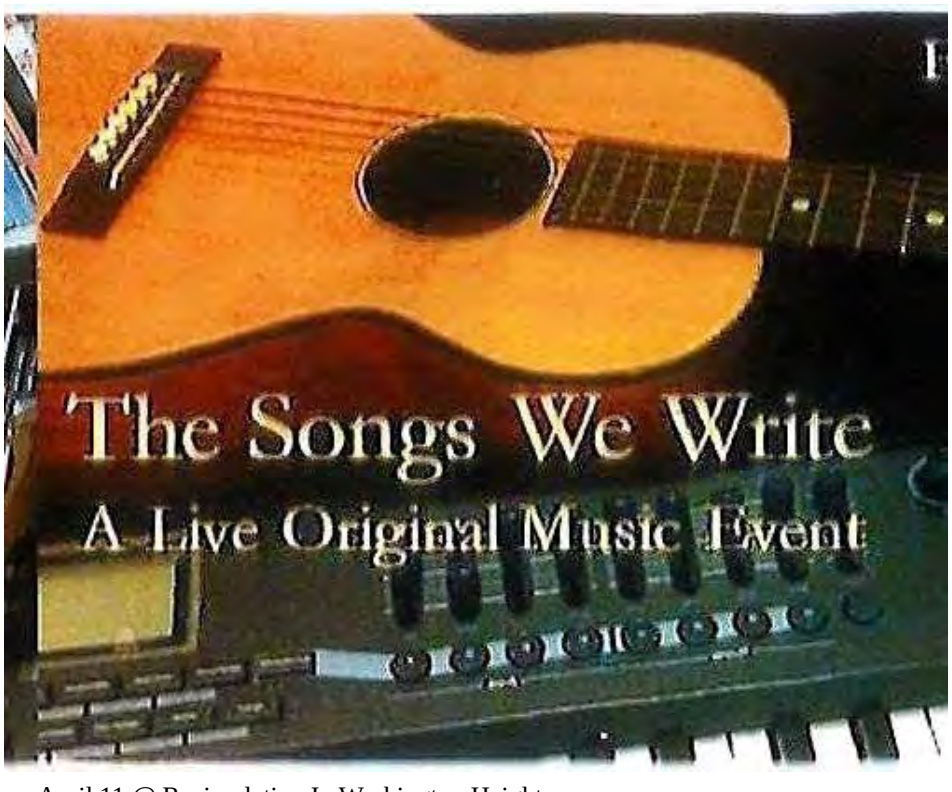
HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HARLEM EVENTS

April 24-27

Gateway Spring Festival at Carnegie Hall

Gateways Festival Orchestra returns to Carnegie Hall on April 27,crowning week-long celebration of Black classical artistry. Spring Festival 2025 travels from Rochester to New York City April 24-27, where highlights include the New York premiere of a new orchestral commission of spirituals from Damien Sneed, featuring J'Nai Bridges; and William Levi Dawson's Negro Folk Symphony, led by Anthony Parnther, the first time since its New York premiere at Carnegie Hall over 90 years ago.



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2025 National Action Network Convention

Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), commenced the 2025 NAN Annual Convention in New York City last week. He brought top leaders in civil rights, business, politics, culture and labor to discuss the biggest issues before Black America. Leaders who attended included: Attorney Ben Crump, New York AG Letitia James, DNC Chair Ken Martin, CBC Chair Yvette Clarke, and Rep. Al Green.

This year's convention was held at the Sheraton New York Times Square hotel from April 2nd through April 5th. Topics covered included banning DEI initiatives in both government and private sectors to dismantling Civil Rights protections, eroding the social safety net, and flooding mass media with disinformation. These challenges represent an unprecedented, coordinated effort to undermine six decades of Civil Rights progress.

Rev. Sharpton brought together national leaders to assess the current landscape and strategize a path forward that preserves our nation's progress in building a just and equitable society. The NAN Convention featured high-profile panels, keynote addresses and the prestigious annual "Keepers of the Dream Award" Gala, hosted by Anthony Anderson, where Patti LaBelle and Chris Matthews were among the honorees for their contributions to the movement.

The 2025 NAN Convention culminated in Rev. Sharpton's highly anticipated announcement of the targets for NAN's DEI boycott, the goal for which is to leverage the power of the Black dollar against corporations that have bowed to pressure from current administration, abandoning their commitments to workplace diversity.

(l-r) Rep. Adrienne Adams, Rev. Al Sharpton, Mayor Eric Adams at "Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" for NAN 2025 Conference **photos by Seitu Oronde**

Ribbon Cutting

2025 National Action Network Convention cont'd - photos by Seitu Oronde

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What Parents Need to Know About Protecting their Children from Measles

(Statepoint)

Ongoing measles outbreaks across the country have many families, pediatricians and public health experts concerned. Most of the people who have gotten sick, including a child who died in Texas, were not vaccinated against measles.

The best way to protect your family is by choosing to have your child immunized against measles. The MMR vaccine—which protects against measles, mumps and rubella—is the only way to prevent measles. Vitamin A, cod liver oil and other alternatives have been discussed as ways to lessen the severity of measles. However, none of these alternatives will prevent measles. Too much vitamin A can also cause severe illness. Always talk with your pediatrician first.

"The reason many parents in the United States have not had to worry about measles in decades is because of widespread immunization with this safe and effective vaccine," said AAP president and pediatrician, Susan Kressly. "However, when immunization rates drop in a community, the disease can spread, putting everyone—especially young children—at risk." Before the measles vaccine was available in the United States, an average of 450 people died from measles every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most of them were previously healthy children. Children who contract measles are at higher risk for developing more serious conditions such as pneumonia or a brain infection called encephalitis.

These complications can become deadly. Additionally, a rare but universally fatal form of brain swelling called sub-acute sclerosis panencephalitis can occur in healthy children years after they have recovered from measles infection.

Measles is highly contagious. The virus can live for up to two hours in the air where infected people have coughed or sneezed. Nine out of 10 people exposed to the virus who don't have immunity from the vaccine will also become infected, according to the CDC. To prevent the virus from spreading and potentially causing an outbreak, creating community immunity by reaching a high level of vaccination rate is crucial to protect those who cannot be vaccinated.

The vast majority of parents get their children vaccinated. But because measles is so infectious, if a community's rate of vaccination dips below 95% of the population, the disease can easily spread, impacting individuals and groups of people. Check with your pediatrician today if you're unsure about your child's protection. Learn more at HealthyChildren.org.

"No parent should have to experience the loss of a child to a preventable disease. Vaccines save lives," said Dr. Kressly. "Pediatricians are here to talk with families about their children's health, including how they can access vaccines. We must support immunization programs so that children in every community get the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong."

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Disney Dreamers Academy Concludes 18th Year with Magical Commencement and Life-Changing Opportunities at Walt Disney World Resort

Disney Dreamers Academy wrapped up its 18th year with a magical commencement ceremony Sunday at Walt Disney World Resort. It was a rousing and heartfelt final day of the Disney mentoring program that is aimed at inspiring 100 teens from varying backgrounds and communities across the country to dream big. The commencement ceremony featured energetic Disney entertainment, beloved Disney characters, confetti and an emotional class ring presentation that enlisted hugs and happy tears from students, parents and chaperones.

Throughout the five-day event, several celebrities, educators, business executives and community leaders motivated, inspired and energized students each day in an effort to supercharge their career dreams. Among the celebrities supporting the event onsite were stars such as Rickey Smiley (The Rickey Smiley Morning Show), David and Tamela Mann ("Meet the Browns") and Kelvin Harrison Jr. (Disney's "Mufasa: The Lion King"), Williams and more.

The 100 students were selected from thousands of nationwide applicants and, along with a parent or guardian, received an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World to participate in the event. The impactful program introduced the Disney Dreamers to an array of new opportunities, such as sessions teaching valuable life tools, leadership skills, effective communication techniques and networking strategies.

Students experienced interactive workshops in a variety of disciplines aligned with their dreams. These workshops introduced the Disney Dreamers to diverse career paths within business, entertainment and sciences, including career opportunities within The Walt Disney Company.

The Disney Dreamers Academy program is an important part of Walt Disney World's commitment to supporting communities of varying backgrounds by encouraging the next generation to think big and to use what they learn in their relentless pursuit of their dreams. In the 18 years since it launched at Walt Disney World Resort, Disney Dreamers Academy has now inspired more than 1,800 students from across the country. Graduates have gone on to become doctors, engineers, performing artists, entrepreneurs and more and some have transitioned into mentors to the Disney Dreamers who followed them.

Students show rings they received during the Commencement Ceremony

Celebrities at Disney Dreamers Academy 2025

Adrian Lyles

Aisha Bowe

Rickey Smiley

Tyler James Williams

Adam Blackstone

Lisa Nichols

Celebrities at the Commencement Ceremonies

New York and New Jersey Dreamers

Harlem Community News Covers Disney Dreamers for 18th Year

Photos by Charley Anderson, Harlem News Columnist

front- Charley Anderson with Disney 2025 Dreamers

Urbanology: Code 420

By William A. Rogers

April 20th is an unofficial holiday for marijuana enthusiasts throughout the world. It is a day thousands of people come together to push for the legalization of marijuana by holding rallies and marches. There are many theories of how the term code 420 developed such as the police code of 420 for possession, or the California Senate Bill 420 that refers to the use of medical marijuana.

When the Grateful Dead eventually started using the code it became the rallying focus for the legalization of marijuana thoughout the United States. As of April 2, 2025, thirty nine US states now have some measures of legal access to marijuana. With 24 having legalized it for both medical and recreational use.

New York State has legalized the use of recreational and medical marijuana. CBD cannabis oils are now legal in all 50 states, but many people are still not aware of the health and wellness benefits of cannabis. When people hear about the legalization of Marijuana for recreational adult use, they often think about deviant behavior and not of the health benefits.

Cannabis has been used as a natural wellness tool in American and in most countries thought out the world for thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians used Hemp for medicine, textiles, and other industrial applications. The sails that carried Christopher Columbus to the New World were made of Hemp.

In 1944 New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia commissioned a five-year study on marijuana. The results of the report titled The Marijuana Problem in New York City concluded that the publicity concerning the catastrophic effects of marijuana was unfounded.

The report went on to say that there was no evidence that Marijuana would lead to addiction, and it was not a determining factor in the commission of major crimes. In 1972 a national committee on Marijuana was formed under the Nixon administration to study marijuana use.

In 1973 the committee chairmen Raymond Shafer published the findings which were remarkably like the La Guardia study. The Shafer report also recommended that Marijuana be decriminalized. This report was ignored by the Nixon administration who wanted to weaponize marijuana to control anti-war demonstrations and the Black Liberation movement.

Socially accepted opioid drugs and alcohol have more than twice the number of human health and quality of life issues then Marijuana use. The disinformation campaign that started in the early thirties was never about Marijuana, it was about the industrial threat of hemp use.

There are two types of Cannabis plants. Marijuana is the one that has THC and can cause a change in mood or a high. It was the Hemp Cannabis plant that created the industrial power broker's fear due to the plants ability to produce inexpensive paper, textiles, and fuels.

Marijuana was the easy scapegoat because most did not understand the difference in the plants and marijuana was associated with people of color and the entertainment industry.

This April 20th, the news will focus on the world taking a day to smoke pot but it's much more than that, it is now a time to become educated on how the legalization of marijuana can improve the quality of your life. I suggest reading "Marihuana the "Forbidden Medicine" by Lester Grinspoon and James B. Bakaler.

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HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY

Balancing Women's Life Cycles

By Zakiyyah

Taking herbs for various WOMEN'S LIFE CYCLES can bring comfort and ease of pregnancy and labor, and pre- and post-menopause. Red raspberry is a specific herb for the entire reproductive system, regardless of age (after the onset of the menses).

BLACK HAW is an antispasmodic, a uterine tonic (prevents miscarriage), a nervine and antidysentery herb. We use the stem and root bark medicinally. It is not very well known, but is excellent when used for painful menses and many other gynecological disorders. It also helps ease menopausal symptoms, and it treats excessive bleeding, prolapsed uterus, and morning sickness.

Because of its strong antispasmodic properties, combined with other herbs, it helps alleviate asthma, palpitations, heart disease and mood swings.

Black Haw can be taken in capsules, as a tincture or tea (decoction): add two teaspoons of the dried bark to one and a half cups of boiling water, covered, and let boil for two minutes. Lower flame and simmer for another eight minutes, covered. Let cool, strain and drink tea three times daily for severe conditions; or one dropper-full of the tincture three times daily.

HERBS TO AVOID DURING PREGNANCY: tansy, pennyroyal, rue, angelica.

MAKE NATURE'S MEDICINE YOUR OWN

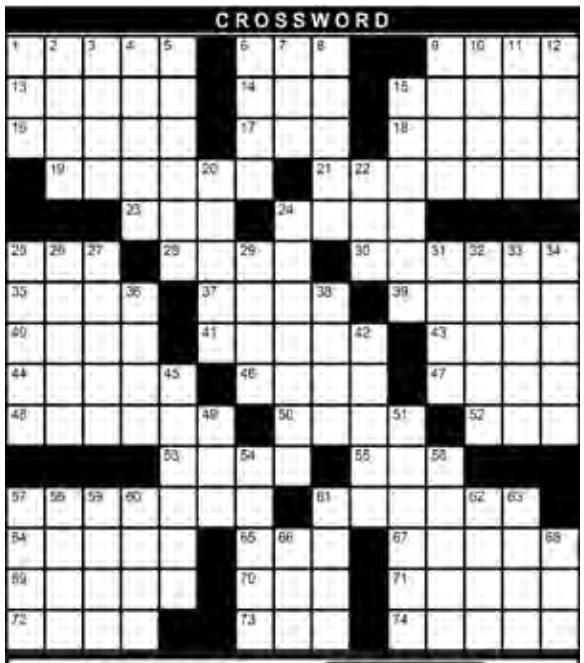
Always do your own research to discover herbs' full benefits and contra-indications. This information is to help balance your body's natural healing energies, and is not intended as diagnosis, treatment, or cure. Email: theherbalist1750@gmail.com; phone: 347-407-4312; blog: www.herbsarenaturesmedicine.blogspot.com.

Answers to Crossword on page 17

I	S	A	A	C		O	T	T			R	O	S	S
S	A	I	G	A		N	I	H		T	O	T	U	P
M	I	N	E	R		L	A	Y		A	L	T	E	R
	D	U	N	P	H	Y		M	A	L	L	O	R	Y
			T	A	O		T	E	L	L				
D	D	T		L	O	B	O		P	O	P	L	A	R
A	R	E	A		H	A	T	E		W	R	I	T	E
M	A	R	L		A	R	E	T	E		U	F	O	S
O	C	C	A	M		T	B	A	R		E	T	N	A
N	O	E	S	I	S		A	S	A	P		S	E	W
				S	A	N	G		T	E	A			
P	U	G	S	L	E	Y		J	O	A	N	I	E	
U	V	U	L	A		M	O	O		K	E	R	F	S
R	E	L	A	Y		P	U	B		E	L	A	T	E
R	A	P	T			H	R	S		D	E	N	S	E

See answers on pages 20

CROSSWORD



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Statepoint Crossword
THEME:
TV SIBLINGS

ACROSS
1. Newton of science
6. Over the top, in text
9. *Monica Geller's brother
13. Eurasian antelope
14. Public health org.
15. Add together
16. Underground worker
17. Put down
18. Modify
19. *Mitchell Pritchett's sister Claire
21. *Alex P. Keaton's sister
23. Lao-tzu follower
24. ____ it like it is
25. Banned insecticide
28. Wolf, in Mexico
30. Ubiquitous deciduous tree
35. Nevada's ____ 51
37. Passionate dislike
39. What scribes do
40. Lime-rich soil
41. Rocky ridge
43. Flying saucers, acr.
44. Certain "razor" creator
46. Skier's aid
47. Sicilian mountain
48. Activity of the intellect
50. Rush job notation, acr.
52. Stitch
53. Belted out
55. Mad Hatter's beverage of choice
57. *Wednesday Addams' brother
61. *Richie Cunningham's sister
64. Palate lobe
65. Jersey call
67. Notches made by saw
69. Olympic 4x4 race, e.g.
70. Public house, for short
71. Fill with optimism
72. Wholly engrossed
73. Store posting, for short
74. Slow on the uptake

DOWN
1. Any doctrine
2. "He ____, She Said"
3. Hokkaido language
4. Actor's representative
5. ____ tunnel
6. "____ the Lonely," song
7. *One "Sister, Sister"
8. Bouquet garni ingredient
9. Sushi choice
10. "The Simpsons" palindrome
11. Court petitioner
12. Light on one's feet
15. Rendered suet
20. Tumult and commotion
22. Any high mountain
24. Carryall (2 words)
25. *Vampire Stefan Salvatore's brother
26. Harry Potter's antagonist
27. 9 a.m. prayer
29. *Lisa and Maggie's naughty brother
31. *Phoebe and Piper Halliwell's sister
32. British elevators
33. Repent
34. Redo, to a carpenter
36. "Sad to say ..."
38. J.F.K. postings
42. Muse of love poetry
45. Lose
49. Famous frat house letters
51. Reached culmination
54. Naiad or maenad
56. Anoint
57. Make like a cat
58. Part of an eye
59. Mouthful, swallowed
60. Fence board
61. Apple co-founder
62. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit
63. Newts in terrestrial stage
66. Belonging to us
68. Be a witness

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		5		2	4			
7		1					4	
	4	2		6			5	
	7		9	1				
4			7		3			6
				4	8		3	
	2			3		7	6	
	3					9		5
			5	8		4		

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every

See answers on pages 19

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PAGE 18

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"The Trouble of Color: An American Family Memoir" & "Last Seen: The Enduring Search"

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Who do you think you are?

That's a question that can be taken a multiple of ways. It's in-your-face, aggressive, angry. Or it's inquisitive and open, asking for introspection. Where did your family come from, and who do you think you are? Or, as in these books, is that question to be answered?

For author Martha S. Jones, issues of identity were already understood: she'd grown up knowing that there were Black ancestors in her lineage, full-stop. She never thought it was anything but obvious – until a college classmate questioned Jones' heritage.

In her book, "The Trouble of Color" (Basic Books, $30), Jones writes of untangling her truth. Color obviously mattered differently to Jones' three-times-great grandmother than it did for her parents. Color didn't draw a smooth line through history, it didn't stay in one place or even in one century. The story of living as someone of color weaved all along Jones' family tree, often revealing nuggets of pride, strength, and of surprise.

There's a journey inside this book that begs readers to go along – and you'll be glad you did. It takes you from city to country to find Jones' ancestors, and it's both comfortingly familiar and quite astounding. If you've ever delved into your own heritage, had your DNA tested, or looked into your ancestry and discovered unexpected things, this is a book to read.

If you've done those things, then you know the delight you feel when you found someone who was lost – and you'll understand the heavy sadness and urgency inside the stories in "Last Seen: The Enduring Search by Formerly Enslaved People to Find Their Lost Families" by Judith Giesberg (Simon & Schuster, $29.99).

One of the most heinous practices of slave-owners in America was the separating of families. Children could, and were, sold away from their parents. Siblings were divided. Husbands and wives were sold apart, with no idea if or when they might see one another again. After Emancipation, it was common to see advertisements in newspapers, classified ads, editorials, and posters in search of missing loved ones and separated relatives.

In this heart-wrenching, sometimes happy, always powerful book, Geisberg profiles a tiny handful of those stories. Once he found them, for instance, Tally Miller changed his surname so that no one could ever take his family away from him again. Hagar Outlaw struggled to find as many of her nine children as she could, once she was freed. Time never stopped husbands from looking for their wives (or the other way around), or siblings from finding each other.

This book explodes the imagination, and it'll make you glad for the research methods we have at our disposal today. Readers who've hit a dead-end on their own genealogical searches will want to read this important slice of devastating American history.

Of course, these books will make you want more, and you'll get it by heading for your favorite bookstore or library. There, you'll find what you need, and who maybe you think you are.

"The Trouble of Color: An American Family Memoir" by Martha S. Jones
c.2025, Basic Books
$30
315 pages

"Last Seen: The Enduring Search by Formerly Enslaved People to Find Their Lost Families"
by Judith Giesberg
c.2025, Simon & Schuster
$29.99
309 pages

Answers to Sudoku on page 21

SUDOKU ANSWERS

6	9	5	8	2	4	3	7	1
7	8	1	3	9	5	6	4	2
3	4	2	1	6	7	8	5	9
2	7	3	9	1	6	5	8	4
4	1	8	7	5	3	2	9	6
9	5	6	2	4	8	1	3	7
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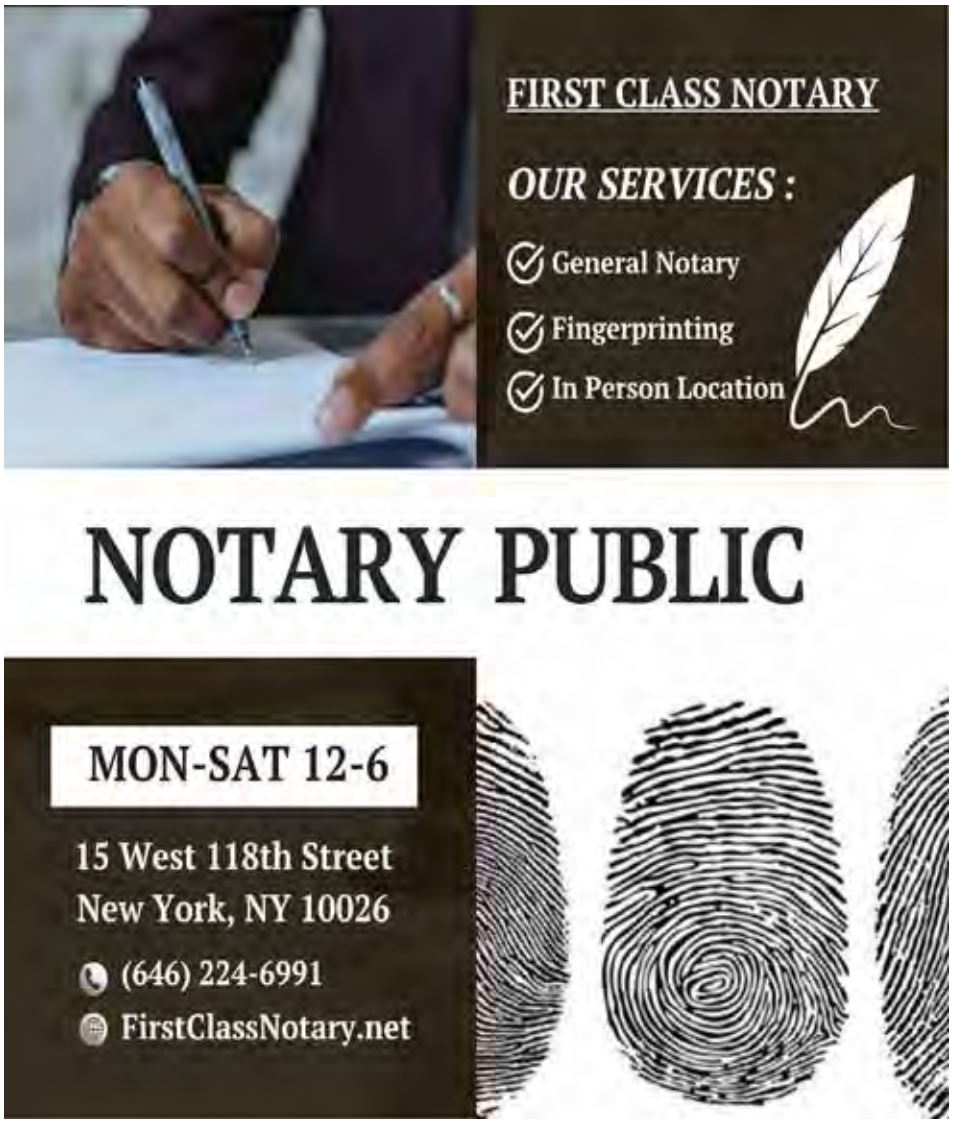
8	3	4	6	7	2	9	1	5
1	6	7	5	8	9	4	2	3



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Saturday, April 5
2:00 p.m. (age 6)
2:30 p.m. (ages 7-8)
3:00 p.m. (ages 9-10)
Aaron Davis Hall
at City College of New York
129 Convent Ave.
Manhattan

LOWER EAST SIDE
Sunday, April 6
10:30 a.m. (age 6)
11:00 a.m. (ages 7-8)
11:30 a.m. (ages 9-10)
Abrons Arts Center
466 Grand St
Manhattan

BROOKLYN
Sunday, April 6
3:00 p.m. (age 6)
3:30 p.m. (age 7)
4:00 p.m. (age 8)
4:30 p.m. (ages 9-10)
Brookyln Children's Theatre
540 President Street #1D

QUEENS
Sunday, April 27
9:30 a.m. (age 6)
10:15 a.m. (ages 7-8)
11:00 a.m. (ages 9-10)
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
35-12 35th Ave.

BRONX
Sunday, April 27
2:30 p.m. (age 6)
3:00 p.m. (ages 7-8)
3:30 p.m. (ages 9-10)
Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture
450 Grand Concourse
at 149th St.

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Photos by Rosalie O'Connor

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