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"GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE"

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

COMMUNITY
BRONX NEWS
"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 31 No. 27 July 3, 2025 - July 9, 2025 FREE

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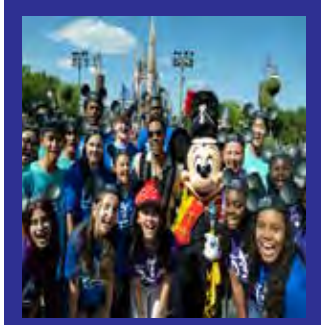

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

In his issue we salute the Wendy Hilliard foundation as it celebrates its 9th annual benefit gala.

(see page 10)

The Apollo is now closed for restorative renovations with a plan to reopen Spring 2026.

(see page 10).

We are now celebrating the Fourth of July! Independence Day weekend, first celebrated in 1777, it marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 when America declared freedom from British rule. It’s a time to reflect on liberty, unity, and the ongoing journey toward equality. It is a time to recommit as protestors have planned rallies in 50 states themed “Free America.”

(see page 9)

In New York, celebrations include fireworks, cookouts, and community events. Families are gathering in parks, waving flags, and honoring the nation’s ideals. Happy 4th of July, let freedom ring from every stoop and rooftop!

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Pat Stevenson
Celebrating
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PONDER THIS! I Said What I Said

By Hazel Rosetta Smith

In the need to confirm and harshly, her response to being questioned, NeNe Leakes, one of the women on the Housewives of Atlanta was known to reply swiftly, "I said what I said." It has since become one of her signature statements.

Those words in some form or another are familiar. Some of us have heard them spoken in numerous ways from our parents at an early age. One such phrase that is particularly familiar to me is " If I told you once, I told you twice, do not let me have to tell you again. I said what I said."

Such words were taken as a strong warning. They were a burden to me because I was a curious and outgoing child, who too often requested the same thing too many times, hoping the answer would somehow turn toward my favor.

As I think back on that phrase, I see how different those words are so easily publicly noted in this present time. I said what I said is implied by those in high places and yet in a day or so, what they said has changed or taken a different spin. Not so, back in the day, we understood those words had substance and truth to back them up. It was not a frivolous fancy, when delivered.

I must admit that I am often confused by what is spoken in conversation and musical lyrics. One might want to say, I said what I said, but the question is, what did you say? In conversing in any manner, the focus should be clarity to enable a smooth flow of interaction shared by both parties and others involved.

I find myself in many instances, wondering if the person speaking is aware of what they are saying. Even some lyrics in the latest popular recordings are mumbled and jumbled together in a fashion that is difficult to decipher, so the music score is the main factor. Every now and then, a line or two will reveal the subject of the song. The artist is content with their delivery with an attitude of I said what I said.

I am in the group of people who will question a speaker at an appropriate time, of course, to get the clarity that I need to be a participant in the purpose and planning that is the crux of the meeting.

Without clarity, there is confusion and chaos in the best programming. If the leader is not clear on their delivery or agenda, the members will not be willing to participate and that causes the group to fail in their objectives.

When someone proclaims, I said what I said, it is a statement declaring their decision to not make any attempt to further the conversation. They believe the discussion has come to its conclusion and they have dismissed the matter.

I suggest that we seek out those who are willing to provide the clarifications that we need, without making us feel that we do not have the right to know. That includes those politicians who are seeking our vote.

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director of Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries. Contact: misshazel@twc.com and www.hazelrosettasmith.com]

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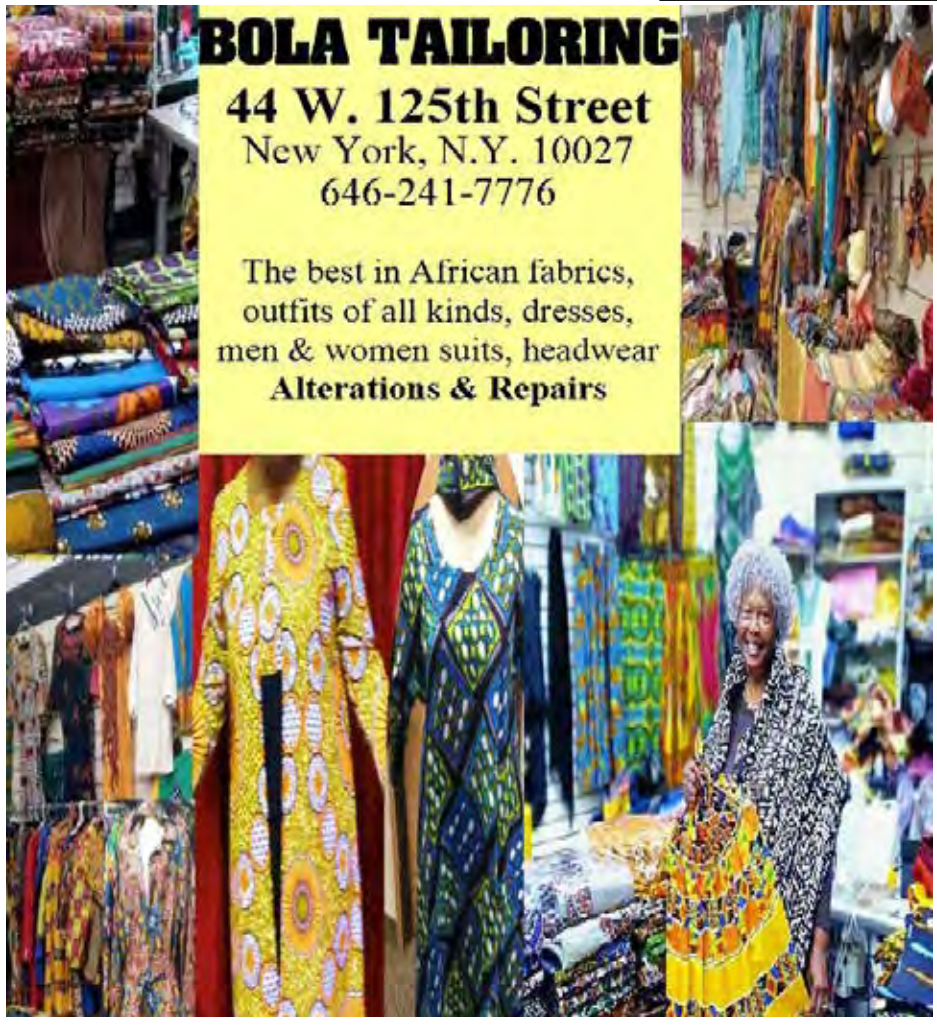

BRONX EVENTS

July 18, 7:00PM
Billy Joel & Rod Stewart At Yankee Stadium - Bronx, NY

July 25, 2025 @ 9:30 PM
Pregones PRTT and the Nuyorican Poets Café are proud to present the Final Friday Slam at the historic Puerto Rican Traveling Theater. Competing poets for the Final Friday Slam consist of weekly Nuyorican Bowery Slam winners, one lottery-selected poet from the audience and curated competitors. The tournament-bracket-style slam will see participants exchange their poetry head to head until only one is left! Final Friday winners receive $100 and an invitation to compete in the end-of-year Grand Slam for $1,000 and a produced show at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe when it reopens in 2026. The slam is immediately followed by the Twilight Hour Open Mic, where anyone in the audience can perform on this legendary stage. Tickets are $35 online or at the door upon arrival. We look forward to having you join us for what is sure to be a legendary and magical evening!
OPEN SEATING
$35 Tickets Late night! 9:30pm to 1am!

July 26, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Family Day at Bronx Museum
For All Ages, FREE! Drop-In. Everyone is welcome to join Bronx Museum Educators for art-making activities inspired by the interactive exhibition WORKING KNOWLEDGE: Shared Imaginings, New Futures. The Museum's Family Programs are designed to be fun for all ages while being accessible to young children and their caretakers. No RSVP is needed; just drop by the Museum to participate! Questions? Please email education@bronxmuseum.org *Due to space limitations, we are unable to accommodate large parties (10 or more individuals arriving together as a group) for this program. If you are planning a visit for 10+ people, please visit our Group Tours page and complete the required forms.

Jul 18 7:00pm Billy Joel & Rod Stewart at Yankee Stadium

Family Time at Bronx Museum

Jul 25 Pregones Theater

Aug 8 60 & Counting Salsa Concert at Lehman Center

The Best Budget Ever Gets Even Better

By Mayor Eric Adams

Last week, our 'Best Budget Ever' got even better as our administration worked with the City Council to deliver a budget that prioritizes public safety, affordability, and improved quality of life — the things that matter most to New Yorkers. Our budget builds on the work we have done to protect $1.4 billion in critical programs facing stimulus cliffs and makes real investments in the areas working-class families care about most.

This is not a budget that favors the few, but all New Yorkers. It launches universal after-school programming and, if successful, could put New York on the path to becoming the first major U.S. city to provide free universal childcare to low-income residents, invests in permanent funding for libraries and CUNY, hires more teachers, keeps us on the pathway to 35,000 uniformed police officers by the fall of 2026, and, for the first time ever, abolishes New York City personal income taxes for low-income New Yorkers thanks to our 'Axe the Tax' plan that will put $63 million back in the pockets of 582,000 low-income New Yorkers and their families.

The decisions we made in this budget were guided by my own lived experience as a lifelong New Yorker. I was a New York City public-school student and a former NYPD officer. Fighting for the future of our city and the needs of our neighbors is second nature to me, and it is what our administration is doing every day.

To make the American Dream a reality for all New Yorkers, we must make our city more affordable for working-class families. For too long, families have struggled to afford the high costs of child care, resulting in many leaving the five boroughs. Working families deserve better. And with this budget we are delivering for them. On the heels of launching our "After-School for All" program, we are now looking to offer families more options with a groundbreaking $10 million pilot program to provide free child care for children aged two and under from low-income families. This program will help ease the affordability squeeze many families are feeling and get our kids the quality child care they need from the earliest ages.

And we are making transit more affordable for everyone in our city, too, because working-class New Yorkers shouldn't have to spend their entire paycheck just to get to their jobs. With this budget we are increasing the 'Fair Fares' program so that New Yorkers whose income is up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level can afford to use our transit system.

Our libraries are critical for children, families, and every New Yorker, and serve as the great equalizer by helping to level the playing field. With this budget, we are adding $15 million in funding to support library operations across the three public library systems as well as an additional $2 million to ensure seven-day-a-week service in 10 additional branches citywide. We are making sure that more libraries can keep their doors open every day and offer the services that New Yorkers rely on.

Our Fiscal Year 2026 Adopted Budget also looks out for the New Yorkers who need our help the most and protects services that strengthen our communities. We are adding nearly $2 million to provide critical financial assistance to LGBTQ+ organizations and providers that have been impacted by the federal government's policies. This funding will support essential services such as housing assistance, health care access, legal support, and crisis intervention for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Our city, and our nation, was built by our immigrant brothers and sisters, but we know that, right now, many of them live in fear of being detained or deported, and that's why our administration is using every legal means possible to keep them safe. In this budget, we are funding over $55 million in immigration-related legal services for New Yorkers. With this funding, not only will we be spending more than we did last year, but we will also continue to spend more than any other American city to keep our immigrant neighbors safe.

Additionally, this budget backfills funding for the federal AmeriCorps service program that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering within our own city agencies.

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Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now

By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

Can anyone afford to buy a home in Harlem? The home values for properties in Harlem are outrageous! But what is even more distressing are the common mistakes many prospective first-time home buyers are making which will prevent them from successfully completing the closing process. Recently several mortgage loan officers have shared with me some horrible mistakes people have made that have caused their mortgage application to be denied at the very end of the application process.

Remember until you have signed the closing documents and have received the keys to your property you have not completed the process. Here are a few tips to keep in mind to the successful completion of the process: (1) do not open any new credit accounts or make any additional large purchases until after you have closed on the purchase of your property. Lenders will pull your credit report to ensure your debt utilization is still within the accepted ratio standard. Every time you make a purchase your debt-to-income ratio (DTI) will be adversely impacted. If your DTI exceeds 43% of your monthly gross income (GMI) you can be denied a mortgage even though your mortgage application has been previously approved.

(2) If possible do not change jobs or vocational careers until after you have completed the purchase of your home. Most lenders want to see a minimum of 24 consecutive months of work history in the same job. If you have changed careers, you will need to establish 24 months in the new position before getting approval for your mortgage. Lenders will verify your employment throughout the application process right up to the day you are scheduled to close on the loan.

However, if you are fortunate enough to be offered another employment position paying considerably more money, in today's economy it might be very difficult not to take it. In that case, you might seek permission from the employer to set your start date until after you close on your home.

(3) Never, ever co-sign for a friend or a relative before completing the mortgage process. By co-signing you are assuming the debt for your friend's purchase. If they fail to make a payment, you have guaranteed to make the missed payment. This promise to pay for your friend or family member's debt will impact both your debt-to-income ratio and your credit score if you fail to make the payment. You have now placed your mortgage application in jeopardy of not being approved.

These mistakes would not be so detrimental except when attempting to obtain a mortgage. They can be so devastating that you can miss out altogether on purchasing your home. Do not lose sight of your goal that you have been working so hard to achieve.

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

July 9-Sep 30 Jazzmobile Summerfest

Phil Young Experience at Langston Hughes House, 20 W. 127th St
Every Thursday - $20 Suggested Donation

“Free America Weekend” Ignites 50 States Wave of Protests on July 4th

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA

A sprawling coalition of activists plan to transform July 4 into a day of protest and civic action, as demonstrators in all 50 states rally against President Donald Trump’s second-term agenda. Billed as “Free America Weekend,” the effort is the latest in a string of large-scale demonstrations, following June’s “No Kings Day” protests that drew crowds nationwide to reject what organizers described as Trump’s push toward authoritarian rule.

The nationwide protests are part of the 50501 Movement, named for the goal of holding 50 protests in 50 states on the same day. The movement emerged in late 2024 through grassroots organizing and quickly gained momentum across social media platforms such as Instagram and Reddit. Organizers say the Fourth of July is a fitting moment to highlight what they see as threats to American democracy, pointing to Trump’s executive orders targeting immigrants, efforts to dismantle federal agencies, and the broader influence of Project 2025, a conservative policy blueprint criticized for seeking to consolidate power in the executive branch.

“There is no real independence to celebrate under this administration,” the Women’s March declared in its call to action for July 4. “This is our chance to stand together and reclaim the meaning of freedom.” More than 170 events are planned across the country, ranging from rallies at state capitals to block parties, dance protests, banner drops, and community art projects. In New York, protests are scheduled both at the state Capitol in Albany and at New York City Hall. Other major gatherings will take place at the California and Texas State Capitols and in cities including Philadelphia, Tampa, and Tallahassee.

The Women’s March website encouraged participants to host neighborhood events and create spaces where people “who aren’t going to come to a protest can still dream about freedom with hot dogs and veggie burgers.” Organizers said the combination of celebration and dissent reflects their conviction that resisting Trump’s policies and building community go hand in hand. In addition to “No Kings Day,” activists have staged numerous demonstrations over the past year condemning what they describe as systemic attacks on civil liberties and democratic norms. Free America Weekend is intended to unify those efforts into a single, coordinated show of resistance.

While organizers have emphasized nonviolence, some local groups have reported receiving threats and harassment online. “This movement is about more than just one day,” organizers wrote online. “It’s about standing firm in our beliefs and seeing it through, no matter the challenges we may face.”

Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Celebrates its 9th Annual Benefit Gala

By Audrey J. Bernard, Society Editor

The Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation (WHGF) is a pioneering, Black-led organization, trailblazing the path for international gymnastic champions under the powerful leadership of its Founder and CEO Wendy Hilliard.. This year, WHGF held its 9th annual benefit to honor contributors who support empowering underserved youth through gymnastics to improve physical and emotional health. The stellar event was held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 6pm at the New York Athletic Club in New York City and hosted by Today Show's beloved weatherman Al Roker. The lovely event featured a cordial reception followed by an impeccable seated dinner, electric performances from the young, gifted and Black WHGF gymnastics, and pristine program.

The gala honored significant contributors to the Foundation and its mission to empower the lives of young people from underserved communities by improving physical and emotional health through the sport of gymnastics. "We are beyond thankful to our 2025 honorees for their contributions not only to our students, but the Harlem neighborhood as a whole," expressed Hilliard.

The Community Impact Award was presented to the Harlem Community Development Corporation for their contributions to the foundation and Harlem community and accepted on their behalf by Destiny Burns. Christopher Harrison, outgoing chair of the WHGF, received the WHGF Hero's Award. "I've had the honor of working alongside the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation for nearly three decades, and I have seen firsthand, the impact that this organization has had on the community and our children," said Harrison. "It means so much to me to be recognized with the Hero's Award on such an important night as we raise funds to keep gymnastics programming available for years to come."

"An exciting addition to our annual event is the Simone Biles Give Back Award. Simone has had a global impact on our sport, and we're grateful that she continues to recognize the importance of what we do here. We will continue to push to provide opportunities for our children, and could not do that without contributors such as Michael, the Harlem Community Development Corporation and Christopher's time, dedication and impact to keep gymnastics alive in Harlem."

Michael Tiedemann, CEO, AITi Tiedemann Global & Chairman, RIVER FUND, as a long-time supporter of WHGF, received the inaugural Simone Biles Give Back Award. The night's top award represents the excellence, determination and commitment of the sport's most decorated athlete. "The Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation is an incredible resource in the heart of Harlem that has inspired and shaped international athletes. I am truly honored to receive the inaugural Simone Biles Impact Award," said Tiedemann. "Wendy and Simone have both had incredible careers, and have paved the way for the future of the sport. Together, we can keep introducing gymnastics to our youth and creating opportunities that would otherwise not have existed."

A highlight of the program was the appearance of gymnast Kyrstin Johnson who was mobbed by the young gymnasts for autographs and picture taking. Her recent season at Temple University has made headlines, and her electrifying floor routine, choreographed to Kendrick Lamar's "Not Like Us," went viral across social platforms. Her powerful routines and pioneering achievements are reshaping what representation in gymnastics looks like. Another highlight was the lively pledge moment where excited student gymnasts stood by tables and awarded winning bidders a championship medal. Exhilarating!

The annual benefit raised funds to continue to provide high-quality gymnastics to urban youth through scholarships, meet the demand of the foundation's low-cost classes and free events and raise awareness of the opportunity to learn and train in the sport. With the support from the evening, WHGF will be able to continue to serve nearly 1,000 students annually, some of which performed during the ceremony.

Wendy Hilliard was the first Black rhythmic gymnast to represent the U.S. internationally and was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame. As a result of her experiences, she founded WHGF in 1996 before expanding to her hometown of Detroit in 2016, to make gymnastics accessible to urban youth. To date, WHGF has served over 25,000 youth. (Photos courtesy WHGF / Jane Feldman)

Kyrstin Johnson, Wendy Hilliard, Rita Finkel, Al Roker. Credit Jane Feldman

Michael Tiedemann with WHGF Athletes - Inaugural Simone Biles Give Back Award - Credit Jane Feldman

Destiny Burns Accepts the Community Impact Award on Behalf of the Harlem Community Development Corporation. Credit Jane Feldman

Wendy Hilliard, Kyrstin Johnson and WHGF Athletes. Credit Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foun-

Al Roker and Christopher Harrison with Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation Athletes. Credit Jane Feldman

Disney Dreamer's Academy Now Accepting 2026 Applications

Application process for 2026 event has begun for teens from across the United States; Mentorship program with all-expense-paid experience aimed at fostering the dreams of high school students from varying backgrounds and communities nationwide teens from across the country can apply, or be nominated, for the 2026 class of Disney Dreamers Academy. The signature mentorship program at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida annually selects 100 high school students for a transformative experience. Students can apply or be nominated at www.DisneyDreamersAcademy.com.

The 2026 event will be the 19th year of the Disney mentoring program, which has become a tangible example of Walt Disney World's commitment to supporting diverse communities. The program aims to inspire teens from varying backgrounds by encouraging the next generation to think big and to use what they learn in their relentless pursuit of their dreams.

Over the years, the program has inspired more than 1,700 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.

The 100 students are selected from thousands of applicants who share their personal stories and future aspirations through essay submissions. These students, along with a parent or guardian, are invited on an all-expenses-paid trip to Walt Disney World for an inspiring, multi-day experience that provides them with valuable life tools such as leadership skills, effective communication techniques and networking strategies.

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

For more information, visit www.DisneyDreamersAcademy.com. Regular updates about Disney Dreamers Academy are also available at Facebook.com/ www.DisneyDreamersAcademy. and Instagram.com/disneydreamersacademy.

Established in 2008 at Walt Disney World Resort, Disney Dreamers Academy's mission is to inspire high school students from varying backgrounds and communities nationwide to dream beyond imagination through insightful content from uplifting experts, mentors and sponsors. Each year,100 high school students are awarded a trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida to experience the multi-day immersive and transformational program.

Do You Have What it Takes to WIn This College Scholarship?

(StatePoint)

For 25 years, one scholarship contest has challenged high school students across the United States and Canada to reimagine prom fashion.

The Duck Brand Stuck at Prom Scholarship Contest encourages teen designers and crafters to create prom attire, using one roll of Duck Tape at a time. What started as a bold idea has grown into a beloved tradition, awarding more than half a million dollars in scholarship money in the process.

"The 25th anniversary of this contest is a celebration of every past participant who stepped outside their comfort zone and pushed the boundaries of prom fashion," says Kerry Haugh, director of product marketing at Shurtape Technologies, LLC, the company that markets the Duck brand. "As we reflect on years of incredible talent, we also look ahead with excitement to see how future contestants will continue to transform DIY prom fashion, bringing their unique perspectives, cultural influences, and personal passions to life."

For important contest details and official rules, visit StuckAtProm.com.

Think you've got the creativity to craft your dream prom outfit? Submit your stunning dress or standout tux by June 4 for a chance to earn $15,000 in college scholarships!

The Apollo Breaks Ground on Largest Restoration, Renovation and Modernization of its Historic Theater in 90+ Years - Hiatus Until Summer 2026

At a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday June 30, The Apollo and a host of partners, elected officials, and invited guests officially kicked-off the largest full-scale restoration, renovation, and modernization of its iconic Historic Theater, temporarily "dropping the curtain" on a stage that has been the epicenter of Black culture and entertainment for more than three generations. The renovation project is planned to last until summer 2026 and will honor the legacy of The Apollo while enhancing the audience experience with a renovated and expanded lobby with a café and bar for community gatherings and performances, new and restored seating, significant upgrades to backstage areas for artists, a revitalized, globally recognized historic Apollo marquee, and more. Photos and video from the event can be found here.

At the groundbreaking, Michelle Ebanks, President and CEO of The Apollo, was joined by Charles Phillips, Chairman of The Apollo Board of Directors, Patricia M. Zollar, Vice Chairman of The Apollo Board of Directors, Dawanna Williams, Chair of The Apollo Real Estate Committee, Senator Cordell Cleare, New York State Assemblyman Jordan Wright, Deputy Borough President Keisha Sutton-James, Deputy Commissioner Alton Murray, Sirius XM President and Chief Content Officer Scott Greenstein and Billy "Mr Apollo" Mitchell. With over 200 invited guests in attendance, the groundbreaking ceremony also featured performances from Apollo's Amateur Night artists Mariah Rae and Greginald Spencer. Additional speakers and performances included Vince Toye, Head of Community Development Banking at J.P. Morgan, David Clower, President of National Trust Community Investment Corporation, Brinda Ganguly, Executive Vice President at New York City Economic Development Corporation and artist Dietrice Bolden. Following the ceremonial curtain drop and remarks, guests recessed to The Apollo's Stages at the Victoria Theater, the newly opened theaters, gallery space, and offices a few doors down the block on Harlem's 125th Street, for additional remarks and a reception.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Michelle Ebanks said: "Today's groundbreaking marks the beginning of a new chapter in The Apollo's journey—a curtain drop in every sense of the word – taking us from a place of reverence to a place of relevance. As we prepare to renovate and reimagine this legacy space, we do so not to erase its history, but to elevate it. To honor the shoulders we stand on, while building a more modernized foundation for those who will come after us."

Construction on the theater—which first opened in 1914 and was renamed The Apollo in 1934— is taking place in phases until completion in summer 2026. The Apollo will continue performances throughout the process, alternating the use of its new Stages at the Victoria Theater, its Soundstage, and in partnership with other New York City cultural organizations, with the Fall 2025 season to be announced in the coming weeks. The Historic Theater is expected to be dark for approximately 13 months for work on its lobby, doubling its size and opening it up onto 125th Street; a new entryway with a new, interactive digital Wall of Fame, a bar and café, new seats, a new marquee and blade, restored plasterwork, and much more.

Following the 2024 opening of The Apollo Stages at the Victoria Theater, the first expansion in the nonprofit's 90-year history, the Historic Theater renovation and expansion further enhances The Apollo's mission to champion artists, shepherd the Black cultural narrative, and provide vibrant, artistic, and community programs that build on the cultural heritage of Harlem.

The Historic Theater Renovation project is led by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects + Planners, in collaboration with consultants Charcoalblue (theater design and acoustic), Flyleaf Creative (signage design), Consigli Construction (contractors) and Envoie Projects LLC (project management).

Funding for the Historic Theater Renovation and Restoration project is made possible by Empire State Development Corporation, Harlem Community Development Corporation, J.P. Morgan, National Trust Community Investment Corporation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Economic Development Corporation, New York City Neighborhood Capital Corporation, Octagon Finance LLC, Sirius XM Holdings Inc., United Fund Advisors LLC, and Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corp., among other generous donors to The Apollo.

The legendary Apollo—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging artists and launching legends. Since its founding, The Apollo has served as a center of innovation and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world. In 2024, The Apollo opened The Apollo Stages at the Victoria Theater, marking the first ever expansion and renovation of The Apollo in its 90+ year history. For more information about The Apollo, visit www.ApolloTheater.org.

With music at its core, The Apollo's programming extends to dance, theater, spoken word, and more. This includes the world premiere of the theatrical adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates's Between the World and Me and the New York premiere of the opera We Shall Not Be Moved; special programs such as the blockbuster concert Bruno Mars Live at the Apollo; 100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella; and the annual Africa Now! Festival. The non-profit Apollo is a performing arts presenter, commissioner, and collaborator that also produces festivals, large-scale dance and musical works organized around a set of core initiatives that celebrate and extend The Apollo's legacy through a contemporary lens, including the Women of the World (WOW) Festival as well as other multidisciplinary collaborations with partner organizations.

Since introducing the first Amateur Night contests in 1934, The Apollo has served as a testing ground for new artists working across a variety of art forms and has ushered in the emergence of many new musical genres—including jazz, swing, bebop, R&B, gospel, blues, soul, and hip-hop. Among the countless legendary performers who launched their careers at The Apollo are Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Luther Vandross, H.E.R. D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Jazmine Sullivan, Machine Gun Kelly, and Miri Ben Ari; and The Apollo's forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy. For more information about The Apollo, visit www.ApolloTheater.org.

Emmanuel Garilus Crowned 2025 Amateur Night Grand Finale Winner, Alongside 2025 Child Star of Tomorrow Nyla Martin

America's longest-running talent show, Amateur Night at The Apollo, crowned saxophonist Emmanuel Garilus as the winner of the show's grand finale on June 25. From a global pool of vocalists, rappers, dancers, instrumentalists, comedians, spoken-word artists, and other performers, Emmanuel Garilus won over the notoriously tough "Be Good or Be Gone" audience with his saxophone performance of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" to receive the highly coveted Amateur Night Grand Prize, of $20,000, alongside a new, exclusive opportunity to work with top music engineers, writers, and producers at the Coke Studio at L.A. Live to hone his craft. Emmanuel was also presented with the newly released Bulova and Apollo Ella Fitzgerald special-edition timepiece, which captures the soulful elegance of Ella Fitzgerald and commemorates her historic debut at The Apollo Theater. 16-year-old Nyla Martin clinched the title of "Child Star of Tomorrow" and accompanying $5,000 prize with her rendition of Jennifer Holiday's "I Am Changing."

Emmanuel Garilus Apollo Finale Winner

Nyla Martin Apollo finale Winner CHild Star of 2025

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What to Buy on Amazon Prime Day if You Hate Cleaning

(Statepoint)

Without the right tools, housework can be time consuming and exhausting. Smart home cleaning technology, though, can bust through the tedium and make your home sparkle with less effort. Even better news? This year's Amazon Prime Day lineup, happening July 8-11, features some of the best-selling, top-rated cleaning tools at unbeatable prices. Here are three to consider:

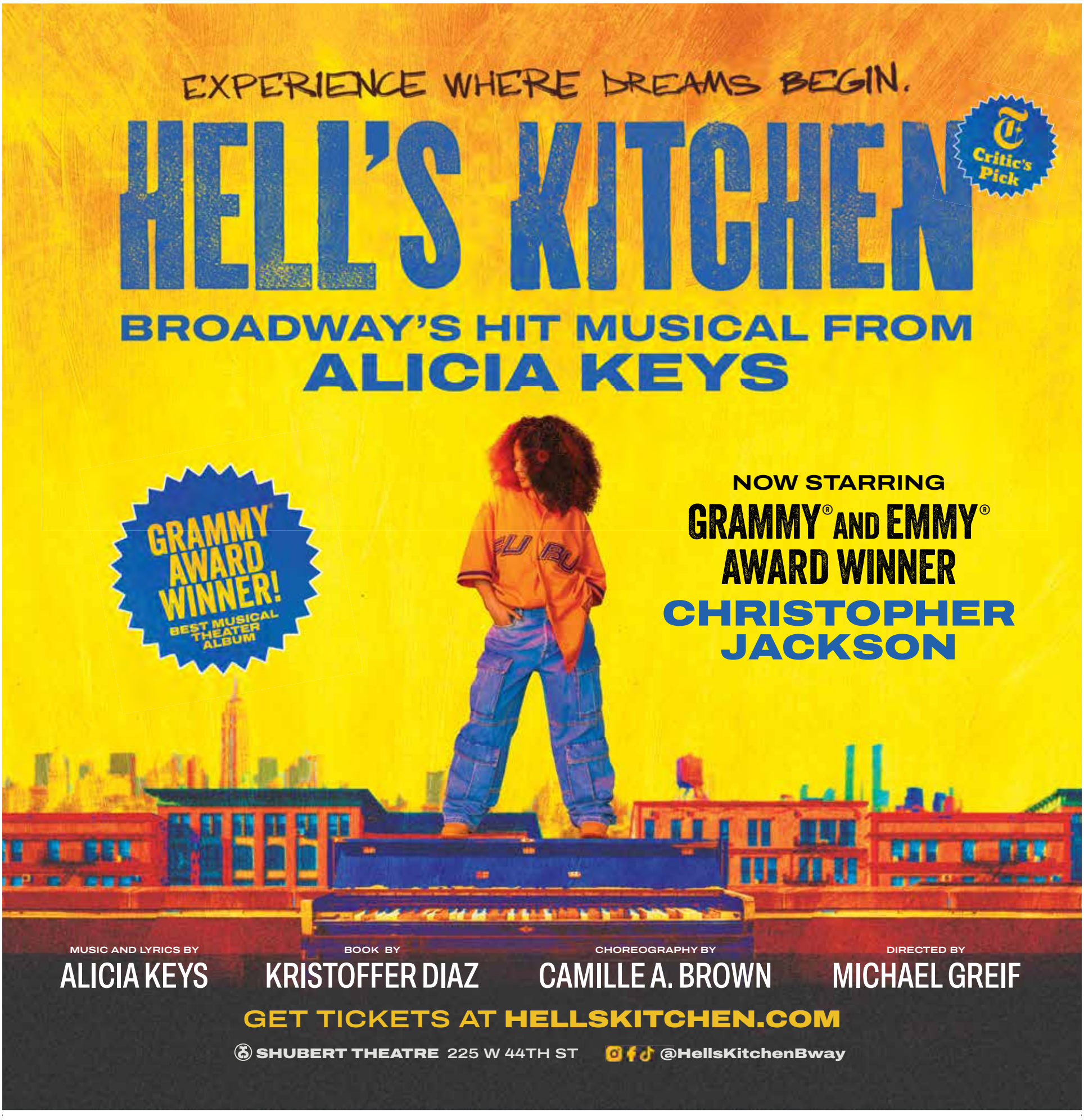
Allin-One Design: The 175-watt powerful suction capability of Tineco's PURE ONE Station 5 vacuum thoroughly captures dust, debris and pet hair, and is suitable for everyday cleaning on both carpets and hard floors. Its unique design means it can pick up large debris without clogging and its smart sensor intelligently detects the amount of dust, automatically adjusting the suction power accordingly to improve efficiency. And if you love a no-maintenance cleaning solution, this is the device for you. After every use, the vacuum can simply be returned to its station where it will automatically self-clean and recharge, and the 2.5-liter eco dustbin eliminates the need for daily emptying. Typically $459, you can grab this for $319 leveraging Prime Day deals.

Swivel Action: The FLOOR ONE Stretch S6 from Tineco is a truly innovative floor cleaner that vacuums and mops hard floors in a single pass, cutting your time spent cleaning in half. This model in particular makes a deep clean possible by reaching where most mops and vacuums can't, reclining fully to 180 degrees and even swiveling left and right from its lay-flat position for cleaning every hidden area. With HyperStretch technology, the device compresses to just 5.1 inches, effortlessly cleaning dust under beds and in tight spaces. Its three-chamber water separation system keeps dirty water away from the motor, ensuring full cleaning power even when lying flat. Plus, mini assistive wheels allow for effortless maneuvering in both directions, while the repositioned clean water tank embedded above the brush head reduces the body weight, making cleaning easier. With self-cleaning functionality and 40 minutes runtime, this is one floor cleaner offering both functionality and convenience. Normally $599, you can add this to your cart for just $349 on Prime Day.

Deep Cleaning for Less: According to estimates from HomeAdvisor and other home services platforms, the average cost of U.S. professional carpet cleaning services range from $123 - $241 per session, depending on room size, carpet type and provider. You can kiss those ongoing costs goodbye by investing in the Tineco Carpet One Cruiser, which provides a professional-grade, on-demand solution that eliminates scheduling constraints and ensures immediate results. Its advanced features are engineered for regular home use. These include a complete hands-free maintenance system and a PowerDry system that reduces drying time by more than 50%, so you have carpets that are ready for use within hours—not days—mitigating the risks of mold growth, odor and surface re-soiling. Plus, it's easier to use than the traditional carpet cleaners you may be used to. Three selectable power levels and bidirectional assist wheels minimize physical strain and enable smooth navigation across carpet types and floor transitions. In addition, thoughtfully repositioned water tanks create a better weight distribution, further easing operation. The retail price of the Carpet One Cruiser is $699, but you can enjoy additional savings during Prime Day when it's marked down to $489.

To save even further on Prime Day discounts, unlock an extra 5% off the FLOOR ONE Stretch S6 and PURE ONE Station 5 from July 8–11 using promo code TIN25PDPR. To get more details about these products, visit Tineco's store on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com.

If you hate cleaning, let Prime Day be your opportunity to invest in high-tech home cleaning products that will work harder so you don't have to.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A Mother's Plea: The Urgent Need for Productive Conversations About Gun Violence

By Julvonnia McDowell

When I bought my 14-year-old son a crisp, navy suit with a yellow bowtie for his upcoming spring formal, I never imagined that I'd have to bury him in it just days later.

My radiant, joyful boy went over to a family member's house, where he and his cousin found an unsecured gun in a drawer, hidden beneath a t-shirt. They started playing with it, not realizing it was loaded. Minutes later, JaJuan was gone.

The phone call we received that afternoon was every parent's worst nightmare. And it was entirely preventable.

My husband and I had always been protective of JaJuan. We'd taught him as a child to look both ways before crossing the street and not to accept rides from strangers. And we'd always ask other parents the usual questions -- about screen time, video games, and curfews -- before letting JaJuan go to a friend's house.

But we never asked: Is there a gun in the house? If so, is it stored securely? It never occurred to us that the thing that posed the greatest risk to JaJuan's life would be a firearm. But gun injuries are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States.

One of the things I've realized since my son passed away is that addressing gun violence and its impact -- especially on children -- doesn't have to be a partisan issue. With our children and teens at the center of this crisis, it can't be. A recent study from Johns Hopkins showed that gun injuries claimed over 2,500 children's lives in 2022 -- more than car crashes, overdoses, or cancers.

Whether you're a lifelong gun owner or someone who has never touched one, we all want our children to be safe, including reducing suicides and unintentional shootings -- which in 2022 accounted for nearly 60% of all gun deaths.

To save lives, we need a cultural shift. That starts with conversations that help people understand how asking simple questions, practicing secure storage and understanding the signs of a mental health crisis can prevent irreversible loss.

For starters, ask other parents, friends, and relatives if they keep firearms and how they're stored. It might feel awkward at first. But just like you'd ask about peanuts if your child has an allergy, asking about guns could save a life.

Similarly, parents -- even the ones who don't own guns -- need to talk to their kids about firearm safety. Make sure kids understand that guns aren't toys.

We also need to normalize open conversations around mental health. This is especially important when it comes to putting necessary time and space between a teen in a moment of crisis and a firearm.

And 8 in 10 Americans agree that productive conversations can help reduce gun injury and death among children and teens.

Sharing JaJuan's story could help save another family from going through what we did. Talking about secure storage and crisis intervention doesn't have to be controversial. It just has to be done.

Start those lifesaving conversations today. And for those who don't know where to begin, information and resources to help start the conversation are available. We can all agree that we can all play a role in creating a safer America where gun violence is no longer the leading cause of death for children and teens.

Julvonnia McDowell is the mother of a son who died from an unintentional shooting and is an advocate for secure gun storage.

Summer Health and Safety Tips Doctors Want You to Know

(StatePoint)

School is out, the days are long and the temperature is rising. For a safer, healthier summer, follow these American Medical Association recommendations:

1. Wear sunscreen. Look for a broad-spectrum sunscreen of at least SPF 30. Also, no sunscreen is waterproof. If you're splashing in a pool or sweating in the summer sun, you'll need to reapply every couple of hours or immediately after swimming.

2. Get up to date. With measles cases increasing, make sure your family members are up-to-date on their vaccines before travel and camp season. Double check everyone's vaccine status. If you have questions, speak with your physician.

3. Be water safe. Make sure everyone in your family achieves water competency skills. Teach children to ask permission before going near water, have inexperienced swimmers or boaters of all ages wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets, and always swim in lifeguarded areas at the beach.

4. Watch your diet. Reduce intake of processed foods, paying particular attention to added sodium and sugar. Add fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds to your diet. This doesn't mean you have to give up summer barbecuing. Simply replace red meat and processed meats with lean meats, like poultry, and plant-based proteins. Also, reduce your consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and drink more water instead.

5. Be physically active. Take advantage of warmer weather to get outdoors and get active. For optimal physical and mental health, adults should get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity each week. While exercise is important, avoid working out outside in the early afternoon (noon to 3 p.m.) when it's hottest. Drink water before, during and after physical activity, and wear light-colored, lightweight, moisture-wicking clothing.

Watch for signs of heat exhaustion, including cool, moist, pale skin, and heavy sweating, headache, nausea and dizziness. Be advised that extreme heat can be especially dangerous for certain people, including those taking certain medications, those with chronic diseases, older adults and children. Additional precautions may be necessary to keep these groups safe in hot weather. CDC's Heat Risk Dashboard informs on how best to protect yourself when temperatures can impact your health.

6. Use caution. If you'll be consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans—up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

7. Know your blood pressure numbers. Extreme temperatures can impact blood pressure, so it's especially important right now to visit ManageYourBP.org to better understand your numbers and take necessary steps to get high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, under control. Doing so will reduce your risk of heart attack and stroke.

8. Check first. Before heading outdoors, check your community's outdoor air quality using the Air Quality Index. Smoke from wildfires and degraded air quality that gets worse with warmer temperatures can irritate your eyes, nose, throat and lungs. Children, pregnant people and those with certain chronic conditions must be especially careful.

"Behind every summertime joy—warmth, barbecues, watersports—is a not-so-secret health or safety hazard like sunburn, heat exhaustion, drowning, unhealthy foods and drinks" says Bruce A. Scott, M.D, president of the American Medical Association. "Simple steps can ensure your family safely enjoys the summer season."

How Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Families and Businesses

(StatePoint)

Paid leave is associated with higher breastfeeding rates, regularly attended well-child visits with pediatricians, and other key markers of short- and long-term health for young children and adults. Plus, early relationships with parents and caregivers, specifically in the first three years of life, shape a child's brain development, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, health and well-being.

With less than a third of people in the United States having access to paid family and medical leave, many families are left without financial security during a critical time for child development. Access to paid family and medical leave is lowest among workers with the greatest needs, including those with lower incomes, without college degrees, and who work part time. The production, transportation, construction, maintenance and service sectors have some of the lowest rates of access.

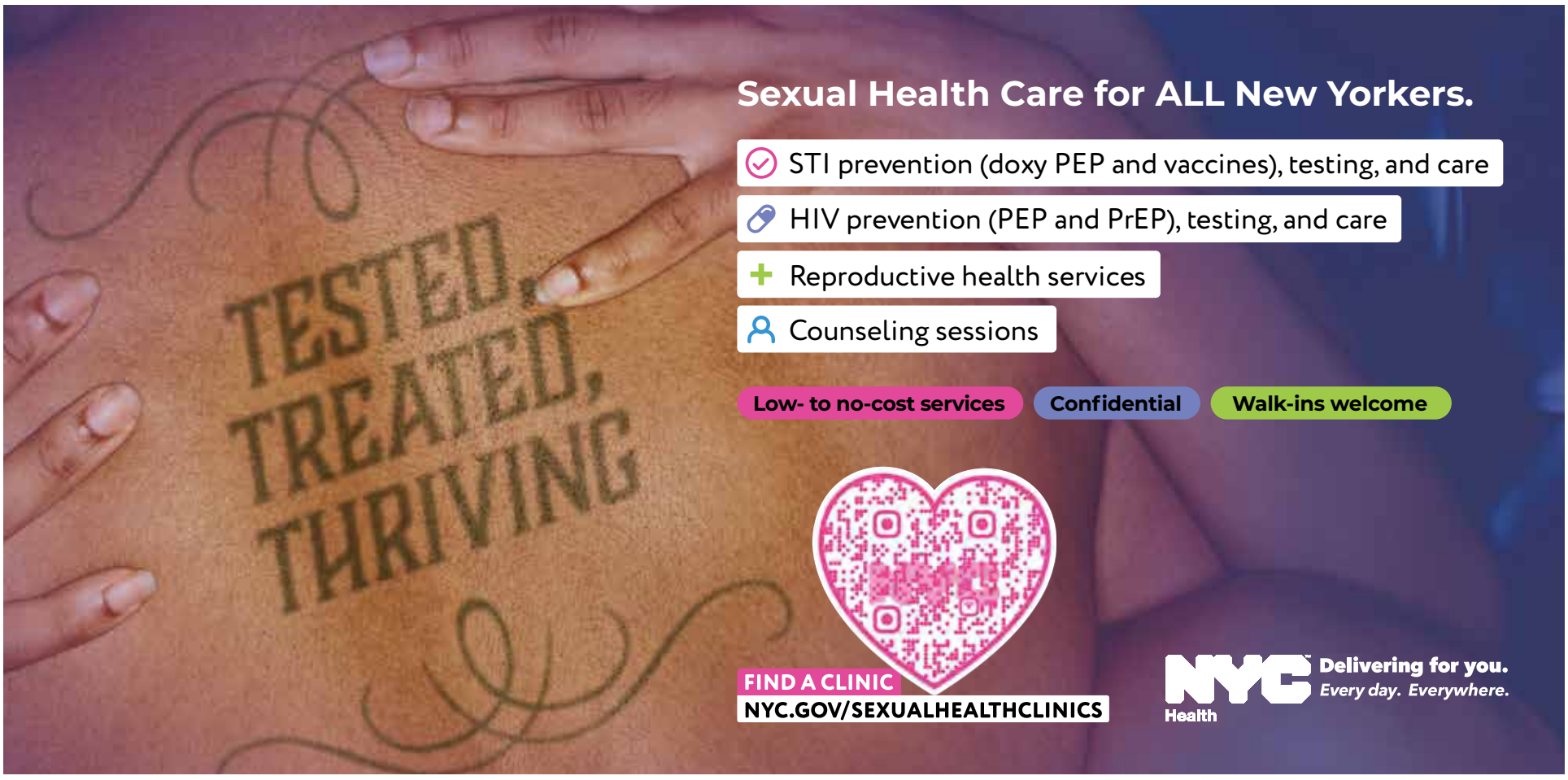
Advocates are bringing awareness to the many working parents and caregivers who are forced to sacrifice their jobs and savings when they need time off to bond with their young children or care for themselves or a sick or injured family member.

"All workers—regardless of location, education or job type—should have access to paid family and medical leave to provide the care and stability children and families need to thrive," says Emmett Avery, coalition manager for the Vermont Paid Leave Coalition, a statewide alliance advocating for the strong paid family and medical leave program in Vermont.

Interestingly, paid family and medical leave is not only good for families, real-world results show that it's also good for businesses and the economy. Access to paid leave benefits businesses by increasing employee productivity and morale, improving employee retention, and reducing turnover costs, and states with paid leave programs see fewer families relying on public assistance, lowering costs for taxpayers.

"Paid family and medical leave is a commonsense policy that's supported by an overwhelming majority of voters and essential for infants and toddlers, families, businesses and the economy," says Dan O'Brien the policy director for Children First PA, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the lives of children in Pennsylvania and beyond. "Everyone can help push for policies that give all working families the time they need to care for their loved ones without sacrificing their jobs or financial security."

If you believe all families deserve the time and support to care for loved ones without risking their jobs or financial security, advocates encourage you to act now. You can join the movement for paid family and medical leave at https://ncit.org/take-action/paid-family-and-medical-leave-action/ and help push for policies that put children and caregivers first.



HARLEM WEEK Model Casting Call

All roads lead uptown for HARLEM WEEK'S official boroughwide model casting call. In partnership with The Metropolitan Museum of Art honoring this year's MET Gala theme, "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style", HARLEM WEEK is searching for New York City's freshest faces to join them 5:30 PM, Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building, 163 WEST 125th Street, Harlem, USA. Bring your headshot and photo ID for entry and be prepared to strike your best pose for a chance to suit up and showcase some of New York City's dandiest looks from top international, national and local designers on Harlem's global runway.

For additional information and to register for the model call, please scan the QR code or call Ms. Sutton at the HARLEM WEEK offices at (212) 862-8477.

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-Tuesday P. Brooks

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Tuesday P. Brooks

Graduating From College? Take These Steps to Launch Your Career

(StatePoint)

With demand for financial advisors expected to grow quickly — at a rate of 13% through 2032, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics — those with college graduation on the horizon would be wise to consider this marketable profession.

The key to launching a successful financial advising career is becoming a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professional. Those with CFP® certification are highly valued by employers and clients alike and can expect to have more career options and higher salaries. Here are the steps to take to gain this competitive edge and begin working in the field:

Get educated: CFP® certification has a two-part education requirement. The first is attaining a bachelor's degree in any discipline from an accredited college or university. The second is completing comprehensive college-level coursework in personal financial planning areas such as investment planning, estate planning and psychology of financial planning. While many begin the certification process after graduating college, you can get a head start by working toward this goal while you're still enrolled in school.

Take the exam: After you've completed the education requirement for CFP® certification, you'll need to prove your skills by passing the CFP® exam. These exams are offered three times a year, and test preparation resources, such as practice exams, are available online to help ensure your success.

Gain experience: There is no substitute for real-world experience. That's why CFP® certification requires 6,000 hours of professional experience related to the financial planning process or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship experience. These hours can be gained before or after completing the exam.

Commit to ethical standards: All CFP® professionals commit to CFP Board to act in the best interests of their clients at all times when providing financial advice. They do so by completing an ethics declaration and agreement and by passing fitness standards and a background check.

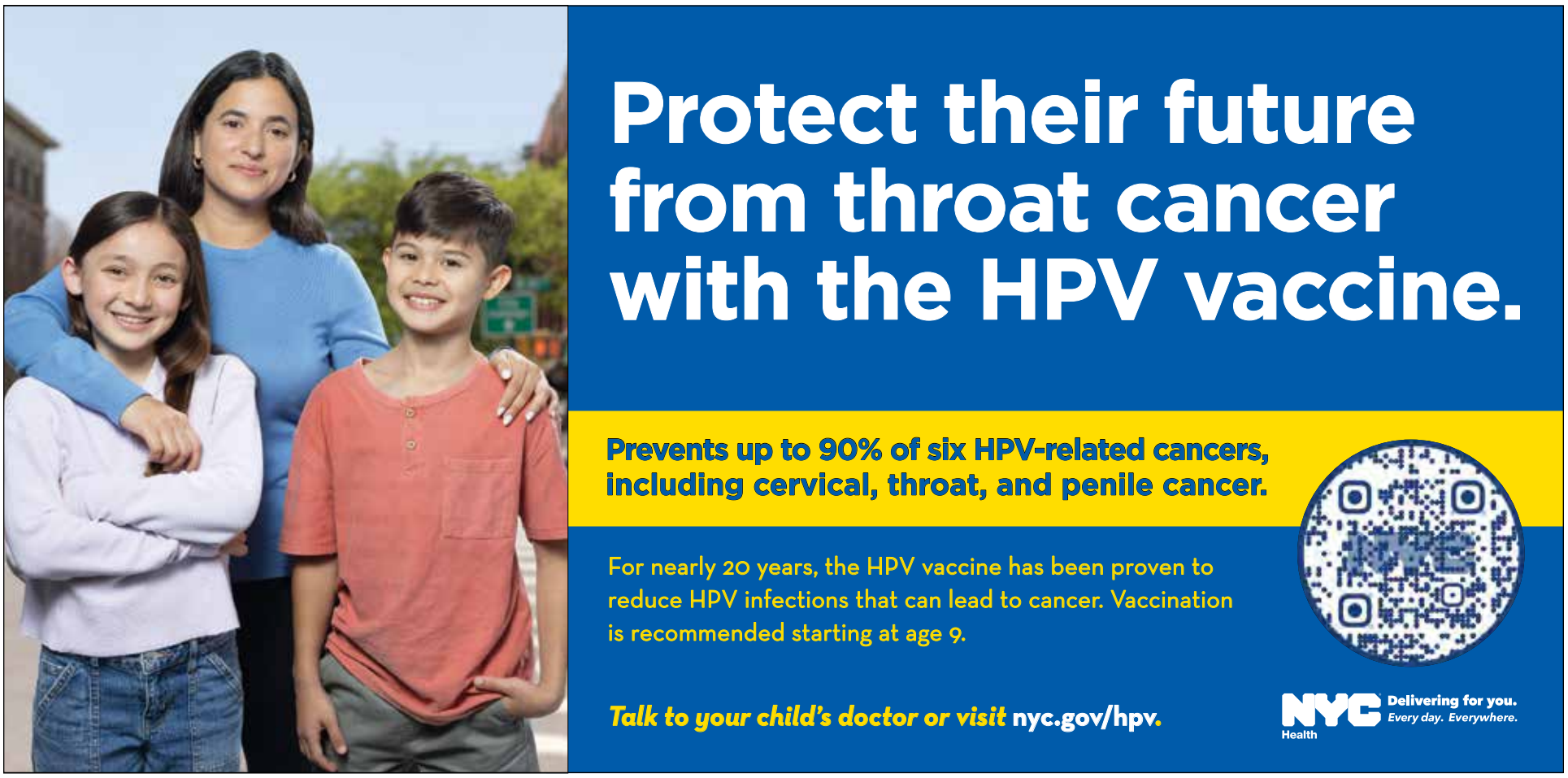
Choose a path: Financial planning is not a one-track career. You can work at a large firm or be your own boss. You can specialize in a particular area of financial planning, provide holistic advice or even offer a financial services firm auxiliary support, such as in technology or marketing. Visit CFP Board's Career Center to find a mentor, get information about career fairs and search for open positions suited to your skills and interests.

Market yourself: Ninety percent of consumers see an advisor's certifications as important, so put your best foot forward by heralding your credentials. Display your CFP® marks on your LinkedIn profile and on other networking sites. Also, be sure to create a public profile on CFP Board's consumer site, LetsMakeAPlan.org, so that potential clients can find you.

Keep learning: Be sure to keep your continuing education requirements up to date so that you can continually serve your clients to the best of your ability and maintain your certification.

To learn more and to get started today, visit cfp.net.

Financial planning is a lucrative career path offering room for growth, independence and the opportunity to give back. As you envision your post-college future, consider taking steps to launch a career in this rewarding industry.



URBANOLOGY: We All Fall Down

By William A. Rogers

Have you ever watched a child learn to walk? They fall down a great deal, but they keep getting up, until one day they start walking more than falling. One can say that falling is part of learning to walk. As we grow older falling down can become a part of learning to live.

We often set goals for ourselves, and all too often become discouraged if we fall short of them. Sometimes it seems if there was no bad luck, we would not have any luck at all. This is the time where our faith is tested. We all fall down - but faith allows us to keep getting up.

The universal transformation period we are currently experiencing can become very difficult to adjust to, even if you are aware that the energy of the mind of the universe is moving from competitive mind energy to creative mind energy.

This concept isn't new. Wallace D. Wattles wrote about it in 1910 in his groundbreaking book "The Science of Getting Rich: Financial Success Through Creative Thought". His book inspired Rhonda Byrne to write her bestselling book "The Secret".

The bottom line here is: we have more power to control our life than we fully understand. What you think about often will manifest itself in your reality over time. The power of attraction is very real, even if you don't believe it is. Take a minute and look around. Everything that you see in your material environment was first a thought in someone's mind.

Wattles used this universal law to generate wealth. But the law of thought manifestation can be applied to anything. You are already doing it. This ageless secret is now becoming common knowledge because it must. We're moving into a universal frequency of truth.

It is important that you understand this because your ability to create reality from your thoughts is becoming stronger as the universal creative mind energy grows stronger in this transformational period. We are the new pioneers and will become the example that will help others to understand. That is why you are reading this dialog.

To be aware of the concept of thought manifestation we must have faith in ourselves and our abilities. When we have setbacks don't become discouraged to the point of giving up. We all fell down. Just get up and continue to focus on what you want in your life. Develop a clear picture of it in your mind - and the mind of the universe will attract the support you need to accomplish your goal.

You must have faith. It is important to understand your greatest obstacles to success are fear and doubt. We all fall down, don't allow fear and doubt to keep you from getting up and trying it again. Remember winners never quit and quitters never win.

Not sure why the mind of the Universe has me writing this old dialog again, perhaps has written in the Kybalion "When the ears of the student are ready to hear, then cometh the lips to fill them with wisdom." One can find a benefit in all things.

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HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY

Natural, Pain Free, Face Lift

By Zakiyyah

Experience a revolutionary, pain free, no risk natural beauty treatment for men and women that allows you to look and feel younger without chemicals, drugs, or cosmetic surgery. With our "energetic face lift" It can reduce the signs of puffiness and aging, lift sagging areas, and rejuvenate your youthful appearance. For both men and women, the lines and wrinkles of the face are storehouses of negative life experiences, trauma, and feelings such as anger, fear, and grief. After we clear and release these emotional trappings, your face will look younger, brighter, and revitalized – regardless of your age.

PRANIC FACE LIFTS Once you understand and embrace the real concepts of energy body-work (like Reiki), you will marvel at the amazing achievement Pranic healing does of taking years off your aging face as the sessions release the stress, disappointments, fears and traumas that are buried in the lines and wrinkles of our faces.

With our energetic facelift, the costs are minimal - compared to the 20-40K for the typical cosmetic surgery, swelling, and recovery time - and our risks are zero! Watch the age and stress just disappear.

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Answers to Crossword on page 21

S	C	O	T	T	■	I	B	S	■	■	S	P	A	R
A	L	G	E	R	■	R	A	W	■	C	E	A	S	E
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B	I	L	E	■	■	S	O	N	■	D	A	N	T	E

See answers on pages 20

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Statepoint Crossword
THEME:
HUMAN BODY

ACROSS
1. Composer Joplin's first name
6. Stomach pain-causing acronym
9. Boxing practice
13. Horatio ____ of "Ragged Dick" fame
14. Not cooked
15. This and desist
16. *Torso, pl.
17. Wrath
18. *DNA half
19. *Body part, not Elvis
21. *Part of blood, not type of TV
23. *Lung filler
24. Same as on top
25. Seth MacFarlane's bear
28. Helps
30. Genus, pl.
35. Paper unit
37. Comme ci, comme ça
39. Burdened
40. Egg on
41. *Pumps blood, not tires
43. Type of nuclear missile, acr.
44. River in West Africa
46. Fraternity recruitment season
47. Purse to go with evening gown
48. "Annie Hall" star
50. Urban myth, e.g.
52. Kenan Thompson's TV show, acr.
53. Target of a joke
55. Cemetery jar
57. *Fingers, not numbers
60. *Muscle, not skeletal or cardiac
63. Enticed (2 words)
64. ___ Baba
66. Scary movie consequence
68. "____ came a spider..."
69. Old towel, e.g.
70. Nail salon file
71. *Gallbladder contents
72. ____ of Sam
73. Poet ____ Alighieri

DOWN
1. Fri follower
2. Hoofbeat sound
3. Princess Fiona, by night
4. Unit of magnetic flux density
5. Ken Jennings' forte
6. *Part of an eye, not a flower
7. "Cheers," e.g.
8. Moved under the rug
9. Witnesses
10. *Part of a hand, not a tree
11. Continent
12. Tyrannosaurus follower
15. "____ of Love" by The Dixie Cups
20. Like one from Dublin
22. Lincoln lumber
24. Battery's partner
25. *Torso, not part of a tree
26. Fear-inspiring
27. Cannabis, in South Africa
29. Not talker?
31. Umberto Eco's "The ____ of the Rose"
32. Marks on a manuscript
33. Old episode
34. *Part of an ear, not blacksmith's block
36. Swimming competition
38. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
42. Monotonous hum
45. Dressing a priest, e.g.
49. Bolt's partner
51. Washed away
54. Nicholas I and A lexander III
56. Marilyn Monroe's original name
57. Cold cuts shop
58. Graven image
59. Departed
60. Manual communication gesture
61. Thirteen-year-old , e.g.

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

See answers on pages 23

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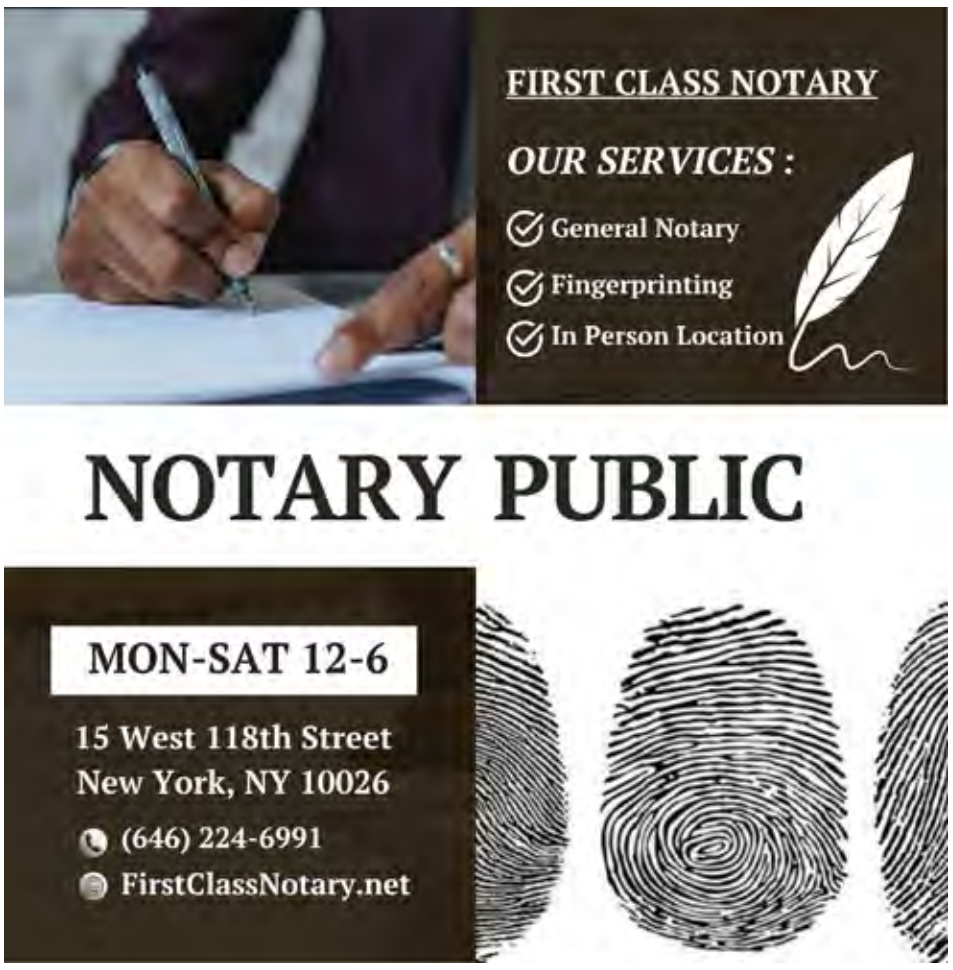

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Madame Queen: The Life and Crimes of Harlem's Underground Racketeer

By Kay McBrayer

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Keep your eyes on the prize.

If you want something enough, you'll never, ever lose sight of that goal. You'll do what it takes to achieve it, letting it linger in your dreams at night and dictate where you live, who you live with, where you work, and what you do. Never look away, keep your eyes on the prize. As you'll see in **"Madame Queen" by Mary Kay McBrayer,** it might be worth it.

It's likely that young Stephanie St. Clair learned to lie from her mother.

Ancelin, says McBrayer, knew her daughter was "shrewd." She probably figured that sending Stephanie alone on a ship from Guadalupe to New York was a chance for the girl to "spin straw into gold," never mind that Stephanie was just thirteen years old. Still, it soon became obvious that Ancelin was correct: Stephanie took the ruse further and told a ship's worker that she was twenty-three.

The year was 1911 and Stephanie arrived in New York, to a home for young female immigrants. McBrayer doesn't believe that Stephanie made many friends there, but she kept her eyes open to opportunity, discovering at the White Rose Home for Colored Working Girls that she was good with numbers. There, she was also taught to sew, clean, save money, and how to comport herself as a lady.

Just beyond the doors of the home, she learned to shoot dice.

She was with a man who was courting her when she learned to play the numbers.

Though it's a fact that she married George Gachette not long afterward, Stephanie never directly mentioned it anywhere, nor did she mention the child they had or the day she rented a room in Harlem and abruptly left them both. She took a job at a dress factory; later, she moonlighted at a bank, and began to plan.

From then on, says McBrayer, "She was investing in her own future."

She was also building her own crime empire.

In her introduction, author Mary Kay McBrayer explains how this book came to be: she read something about Stephanie St. Clair and went in search for more but information was scarce. She admits that she inferred much and made up a lot to craft this story. She calls it "creative nonfiction," and in "Madame Queen," it works.

Such conjecture, in fact, actually works *better* because McBrayer serves as a kind of narrator in Stephanie's story, filling in the many, many blanks with plausible conversations and likely facts that she backs up with sound reasoning. Indeed, the imaginary oozes between the truth to make this feel like a novel, but with occasional reminders that reality is somewhere, inside, outside, or nearby. It's a tale told with fine sleuthing, dogged journalism, a well-described backdrop, and a touch of obvious admiration for its subject.

Readers who love biographies and can accept some speculation will devour this book, as will fans of historical novels, 1920s history, and *The Sopranos*. Look for "Madame Queen," It's a good surprise for the eyes.

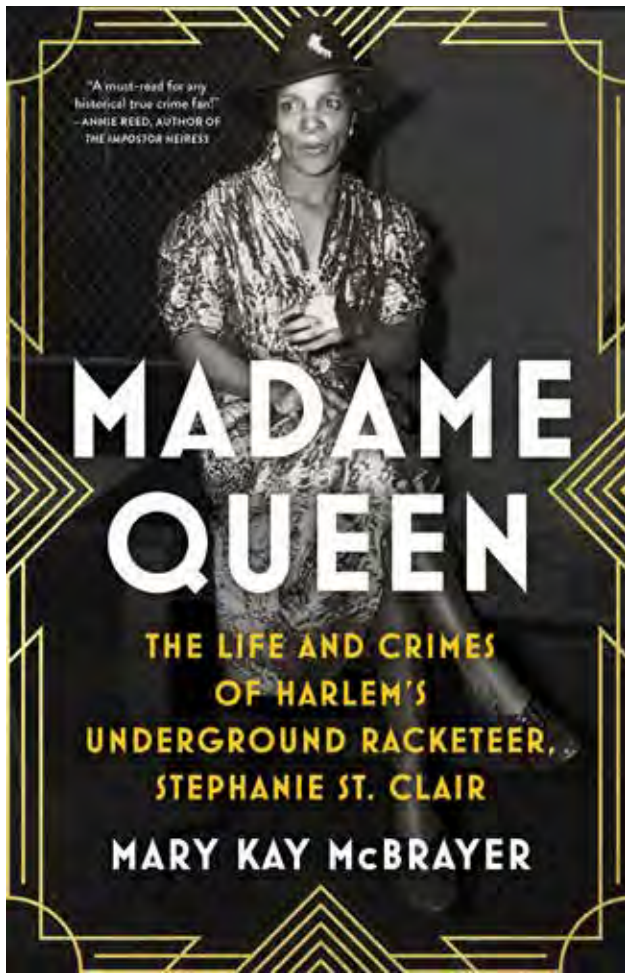
Author photo by Yvett Glasco

"Madame Queen: The Life and Crimes of Harlem's Underground Racketeer, Stephanie St. Clair" by Mary Kay McBrayer

c.2025, Park Row Books

$30.00

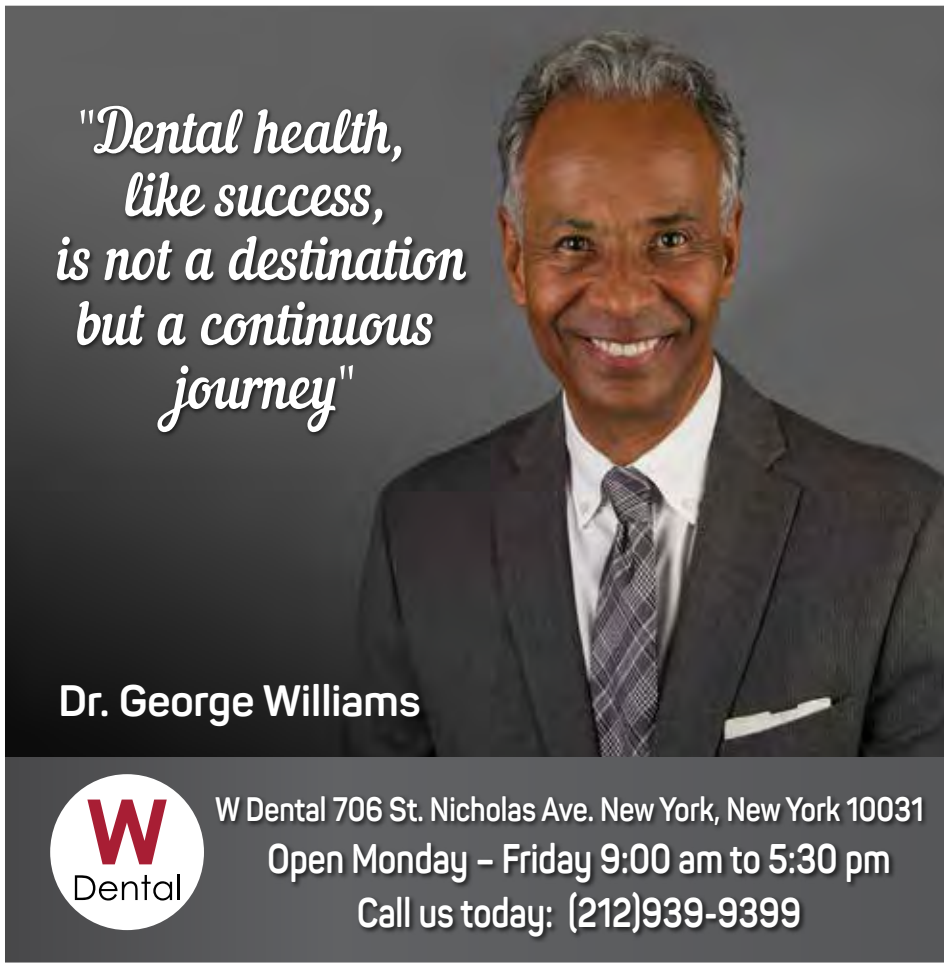
256 pages



Answers to Sudoku on page 21

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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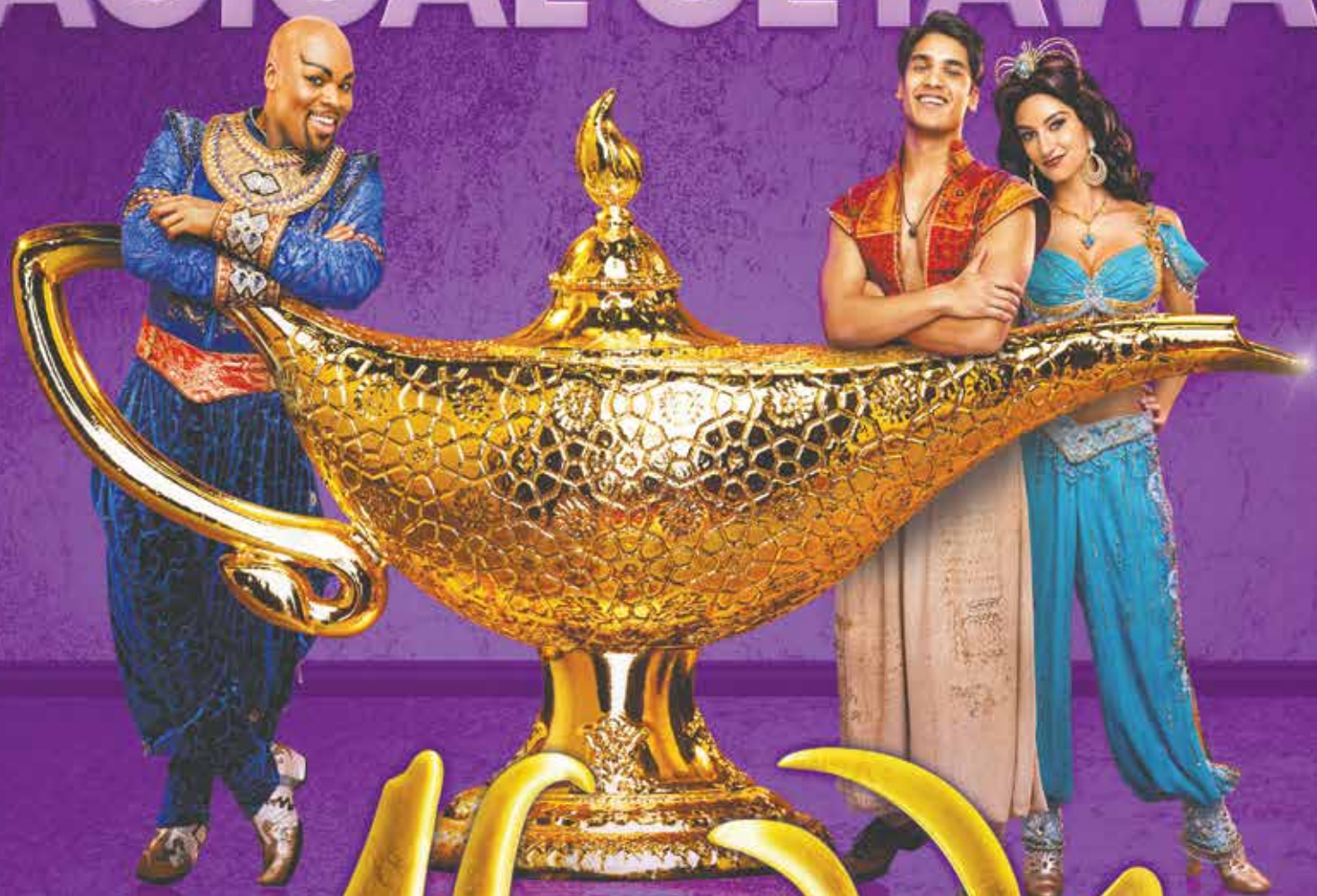

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