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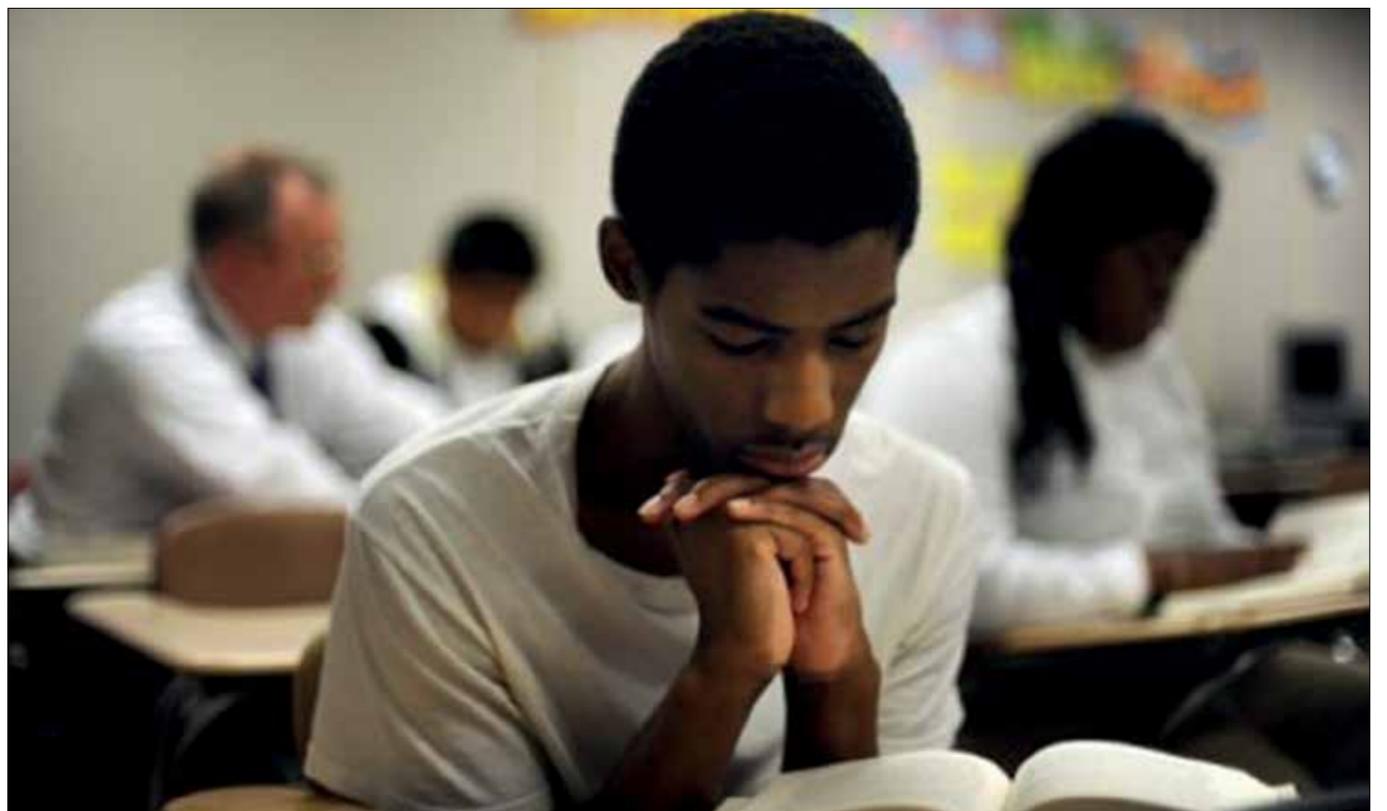
New York's Black Cowboys Have An Uncertain Future Due To Financial Challenges



Kesha Morse, President, Federation of Black Cowboys
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Saved by The Bill!

First-in-the-Nation Program Provides Free Tuition to New Yorkers Making Less Than \$125,000 Per Year at all SUNY and CUNY Two- and Four-Year Colleges



Students have a barrier removed from the path to higher education. Speaking at LaGuardia College, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a program of free tuition at state colleges and universities. [See Page 6]

Free-Tuition Awakens "Optimism and Opportunity"

"This is a model that goes back to the days when City College was tuition-free and educated a generation of leaders, scholars and many, many others," said 30th District State Senator Bill Perkins speaking about Governor Cuomo's free tuition initiative at state colleges and universities. "This

is a giant step in the right direction and speaks to the vision of public education that extends beyond elementary and high school into higher education and is necessary to prepare students for today's challenges."

Senator Perkins also noted that the proposed legislation sends the message to

the community, where many are in despair about the future, "that at the highest levels of state government we care about your future and getting you prepared for it". In the same way that leaders such as Colin Powell, Perkins himself and so many others were educated in the free City College system, Perkins says young people today

can see that opportunity opening before them. And opportunity begets optimism and optimism brings an energy that affects entire families and changes lives forever. "Our young people need to keep the faith instead of being cynical and pessimistic. This proposed legislation is a priceless incentive with its opportunity for success."

Black Live Matter Co-Founder, to Keynote Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday, January 16



Opal Tometi Executive Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, to speak at BAM, partnering with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Medgar Evers College.
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Kwanzaa celebrated in Harlem and Brooklyn



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It's Flu Season: Take Care!

By David Mark Greaves

We're at the beginning of the flu season and the NYC Department of Health recommends that most people over the age of six months should be vaccinated against the spread of the influenza virus. This is, first of all, to provide personal health and it also affects the health of all folks around you in an ever-widening circle of protection against transmission for the entire community.

We spoke with Dr. Michael Augenbraun, Chief of Infectious Diseases at Kings County Hospital, about the flu virus and the vaccination, which some are wary of. Dr. Augenbraun stated (categorically) that because there is no live flu virus in flu shots, they cannot cause the flu.

While there is a possibility of getting the flu even after being vaccinated, the effect will be transient and the impact will be muted.

The influenza virus is spread mainly through coughing, sneezing and close contact, although there can be some transmission from surface to hand as well. We asked Dr. Augenbraun if someone at the ATM--just before you coughed on the keys or used a subway pole after coughing into their hand--is it possible for the virus to be transmitted? He said it is possible, but only for a short while and that the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers is an excellent way to prevent transmission and provides sterilization for up to two hours.

The Kings County emergency room is seeing an increase in the number of cases coming in and because the virus is so easily

airborne and contagious, patients presenting flu symptoms are isolated from the general emergency room population and with the rapid diagnostic tools available, a determination can be made in hours. Separation is necessary because people with chronic illnesses are at high risk as any other health problems they have will be exacerbated by the flu virus affecting all of their bodily systems.

The doctor reminds us that the influenza vaccines work against the influenza virus only and are no defense against the common cold. Also, having a common cold should not preclude a vaccination. "Pregnancy and the flu are a bad combination," said Dr. Augenbraun, and pregnant women should

get vaccinated. Also, children are at high risk of contraction because of their close contact at an age when hygienic practices are not top-of-mind. If they are not vaccinated themselves, they can bring the influenza virus home, where it can make the rounds of an unvaccinated family.

Regarding the popular Tamiflu, the doctor says it is an effective drug and is not a cure, but it can reduce the duration of illness if taken immediately after the onset of symptoms and can act as a prophylactic if taken immediately after an exposure.

Ideally, everyone would be vaccinated, providing what health practitioners call "herd immunity" protecting the elderly and the infirm.

Cold or Flu?

Cold	Symptom	Flu (Influenza)
Rare, Mild (less than 100°)	Fever	Almost Always High (Greater than 100°)
Rare	Headache	Common
Slight	General Aches & Pains	Usual/Often Severe
Gradual over a Few Days	Onset	Rapid Onset
Common	Stuffy Nose	Rare
Common	Runny Nose	Common
Common	Sore Throat	Sometimes
Mild to Moderate	Cough	Common - Can be Severe (Dry)

Note: The official name for Kings County Hospital is NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County.

Having now lost the RFP for the lease on their longtime home, the Federation of Black Cowboys is still meeting and there is hope that those who already have horses at the stable can be grandfathered in and keep their horses, and tradition, on site.

The following article is excerpted from reports earlier this year in the Village Voice and on ABC News and is window on changing times.

New York's Black Cowboys Have An Uncertain Future Due To Financial Challenges

By Victor Ochieng

The Federation of Black Cowboys, a group of horse-riding enthusiasts operating out of an 11-acre Cedar Lane Stables in Queens, have been providing a platform for Blacks interested in the sport. The group was founded 18 years ago with the aim of preserving Black people on the American frontier as well as helping get kids off the streets. FBC's accomplishments over the years are amazing, having worked

with people of different age groups, ranging from those in their 70's to a 22-year-old horseshoeing enthusiast.

But even with its great works, its future remains bleak. After the sudden and untimely death of six of its horses in 2012, it went into serious financial troubles that threaten its existence. Besides, its membership has dwindled and it's also losing its stables license this coming August.

"Riding makes you feel free. It's in your
 → Continued on page 11



Decked out in fringed leather jackets, cowboy boots and ten-gallon hats, the remaining 18 members of the FBC hope to rewrite history books that have erased black people from its pages.

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Harriet Tubman National Historic Parkland Announced

Schumer: Tubman Park is a Long-Overdue Recognition of an Extraordinary American

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer today announced that the Department of the Interior (DOI) has completed the land transfer agreement that will allow NPS to formally establish the Harriet Tubman National Historic Park in Auburn, New York. The announcement follows Schumer's successful efforts to ensure that DOI officials complete the final steps necessary for approval of the park. Schumer has been a longtime advocate for the establishment of the new historical park celebrating the life of Harriet Tubman at the site of her home in Central New York. He authored, introduced and passed legislation authorizing the park and has lobbied federal officials to finalize the project. Last year, he successfully pushed the Department of Justice (DOJ) to sign a land transfer agreement allowing the site to be established as an official unit of the National Park Service. With the land transfer agreement now complete, the Tubman Home awaits signature from the Secretary of Interior for formal establishment.

"As a New Yorker and an American, I'm deeply proud to see Tubman Park finally become a reality," said **Senator Schumer**. "The Tubman Historic Park in Auburn, New York will be a magnet for visitors that will tell the amazing story of Harriet Tubman's life, an extraordinary American whose story deserves to be shared with our children and grandchildren. This park will serve that solemn purpose and preserve her legacy for countless generations to come."

Schumer has long fought to make Tubman Park a reality. Most recently, he wrote to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell urging her to complete the land transfer needed to secure final approval. Previously, he successfully pushed Attorney General Loretta Lynch to sign the General

Agreement allowing the Harriet Tubman Residence in Auburn to be formally designated as a Unit of the National Park Service. In addition, Schumer authored and passed the legislation authorizing the establishment of the park. This legislation was passed as a part of the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which included a provision that created two national historic parks, one in New York and one in Maryland.

The Auburn park will commemorate the later years of Harriet Tubman's life, her work in the Women's Suffrage Movement and her tireless commitment to providing for elderly African-Americans. The Harriet Tubman Residence in Auburn is an historic landmark in a region with a strong history of individuals rooted in social activism and justice. An escaped slave herself, Tubman used her Auburn home to shelter her parents and many African-Americans who escaped slavery - some of whom she guided herself. The Maryland park will trace Tubman's early life on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where she was born and later escaped from slavery to become one of the leaders on the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman was born in Dorchester County, Maryland, where she spent nearly 30 years as a slave. She escaped slavery in 1849, but returned to the Eastern Shore several times over the course of 10 years to lead hundreds of African-Americans to freedom in the North. Known as "Moses" by African-American and white abolitionists, she reportedly never lost a "passenger" on the Underground Railroad. In Maryland, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park would include historically important landscapes in Dorchester, Caroline and Talbot Counties that are evocative of the life of Harriet Tubman.

WHAT'S GOING ON

■ By Victoria Horsford

AMERICA 2017

The Barack Obama Presidential Era ends on January 20th, Inauguration Day for President-elect Donald Trump. President Obama delivers his farewell address from Chicago next week. The NY Times has begun its 6-part summary and analysis of the Obama Presidency on 8/13/16, and will continue through 1/19. The most recent one was published on January 2nd. The sections are: 1) Regulator-in-Chief, 2) Threat to Planet, 3) The Good War, 4) Health Care Revolution, 5) Breaking Racial Barriers and 6) A Changed Man. President Obama will depart the White House as the most respected leader in the nation, according to a late December Quinnipiac poll.

On January 20th, the Republicans will dominate Congress, the Senate and the White House for the first time since 2007. The new GOP era is going to challenge American culture in ways large and small. It is hoped that some of it will be progressive. Trump and the GOP Congress are eager to eliminate the Obama legacy, starting with the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, and to get rid of about 200 of President Obama's executive orders. Obamacare will not be that easy to dismantle. The GOP domestic agenda will be marked by tax cuts for the rich (2%) and for the middle class and working poor (97%), a jobs stimuli and less government regulations, re: banks and business. House Republicans held a 1/2/17 secret session to gut a bipartisan Ethics Committee, which was set up in 2009. Trump questioned the action. On 1/3, Congress announced that the EC is here to stay. While the GOP Congress/Senate and President-elect Trump have much in common, like whiteness, for example, they are miles apart on many areas of governance. Republicans advocate for reduced federal government power and diminishing the power of the president. It is a new year and there will be a new Sheriff/President Trump in the White House, who plans to usher in a period of expansive executive power.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AMERICA!

NEW YORK

New York-based political strategist Chet Whye, Kamilia Williams, Virginia Davies and Willard B. Taylor will co-host a reception/fundraiser for Congressman Keith



Ellison, a candidate for the Democratic National Committee Chair, which will be held on Saturday at the home of Virginia Davies and Willard Taylor, located at 299 West 12th Street, PHA, Manhattan. RSVP is necessary at keithfordnc.org/newyork. A Minnesotan, Keith Ellison says that if he is elected Chair next month, he would resign from Congress. Keith Ellison is a Wayne State University alum who is an attorney. He is the first Black Muslim to be elected to the US Congress and the first Black Minnesotan to be elected to Congress. US Senators who support Ellison's DNC candidacy include Chuck Schumer, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Al Franken.

This is a major year for NYC electoral

politics. We go to the polls to elect the mayor, public advocate, comptroller and 51 NYC Councilpersons. Melissa Mark-Viverito, current NYC Council Speaker, is term-limited. The Council elects the Speaker, assisted by excessive arm-twisting by the NYC Mayor. I have not read about any African-American politicians who are interested in the powerful Speakership. Hope to see some Brooklyn African-American Council people stepping up to that Speakership plate. After all, Brooklyn is the center of gravity for NYC Black political power.

Errol Louis, NY1 Cable News anchor and Inside City Hall anchor, will conduct a workshop, COVERING THE NYC ELECTIONS, on January 11th from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the CUNY Journalism School, located at 219 West 40th Street, Room 308, Manhattan. [Visit JanuaryAcademy@CUNYjschool for particulars]

It is official. Larry Scott Blackmon, Fresh Direct VP, has tossed his hat in the crowded ring of candidates interested in the 9th City Council District's special election to replace Inez Dickens, who is now a NYS Assemblywoman. The 9th City Council District is housed in Central Harlem and is predominantly Black. He will speak at the Equality Coalition's Candidates Forum for the 9th Council District on January 11th at 215 West 125th Street, 3rd Floor, at 6 pm.

Central Harlem has no representation in the NYC Council since former incumbent Inez Dickens is now an Albany politician. There is a power vacuum until the special election date is announced. Please make it sooner rather than later, Governor Cuomo. The same area has a freshman Congressman Adriano Espaillat, new to a GOP-dominated chamber, with no great love for civil rights and big government. Congrats to Adriano Espaillat, who is the first Dominican Republic-born person to be elected to Congress. Will he land good committee assignments, useful to his diverse constituents who live in East Central and West Harlem, parts of the Bronx and Washington Heights? I also read that Congressman Espaillat is the first undocumented alien to become a member of Congress. Yes, the Republic has come a long way! Maybe it's the progressive NY mind-set. Donald Trump will not be America's immigration president! Senator Perkins, from Harlem, is desperate to return to the City Council. How unlucky can the Harlem constituents get? Political vacuums are not forever!

BLACK WEALTH/ ENTERPRISE

According to the latest issue of Forbes magazine, there is another listing of the rich and famous. It is the Top 20 "Billionaires: America's Richest Celebrities". African-Americans who made the Top 20 are listed below. The "Star Wars" creator George Lucas, who is not Black, heads the list with a net worth of \$4.6 billion. He is, however, married to a Black woman, Mellody Hobson, who is the mother of his youngest child;



→ Continued on page 9

25 Years of Struggle, Service, and Healing



Shadiidi Beatrice Kinsey, D.Ac, Dipl.Ac (NCCAOM) Lic. Ac. (NYS)

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- Black Child Development Institute, NY Affiliate
- Gerri Holder
- Guy Houvenaghels

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Building Communities by Strengthening Families Since 1975

Gov.'s Tuition-Free Program Would Begin Rollout in the Fall

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, with U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, today unveiled the 1st signature proposal of his 2017 agenda: making college tuition-free for New York's middle-class families at all SUNY and CUNY two- and four-year colleges. New York's tuition-free college degree program, the Excelsior Scholarship, is the first of its kind in the nation and will help alleviate the crushing burden of student debt while enabling thousands of bright young students to realize their dream of higher education.

Under this ground-breaking proposal, more than 940,000 middle-class families and individuals making less than \$125,000 per year would qualify to attend college tuition-free at all public universities in New York State. The Excelsior Scholarship program will ensure that students statewide, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have the opportunity to receive a quality education and gain the skills they need to succeed in our global economy.

"A college education is not a luxury – it is an absolute necessity for any chance at economic mobility, and with these first-in-the-nation Excelsior Scholarships, we're providing the opportunity for New Yorkers to succeed, no matter what zip code they come from and without the anchor of student debt weighing them down," Governor Cuomo said. «New York is making a major investment in our greatest asset – our people – and supporting the dreams and ambitions of those who want a better life and are willing to work hard for it. I am honored to have the support of Senator Sanders, who led the way on making college affordability a right, and I know that together we can make this a reality with New York leading the way once again.»

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders said, "If the United States is to succeed in a highly competitive global economy, we need the best educated workforce in the world. With exploding technology, and with most of the good-paying jobs requiring more and more education, we need to make certain that every New Yorker, every Vermonter and

every American gets all the education they need regardless of family income. In other words, we must make public colleges and universities tuition-free for the middle class and working families of our country. That is what Governor Cuomo is fighting for here in New York and it's something I strongly support. I urge New York legislators to pass this enormously important proposal and become a model for the rest of the nation".

New York's tuition-free degree program, the Excelsior Scholarship, requires participating students to be enrolled at a SUNY or CUNY two- or four-year college full-time. The initiative will cover middle-class families and individuals making less than \$125,000 through a supplemental aid program. Currently, 80 percent of NY households statewide make \$125,000 or less with an estimated 940,000 households having college-aged children that would be eligible for the program. Based on enrollment projections, the plan will cost approximately \$163 million per year once fully phased in.

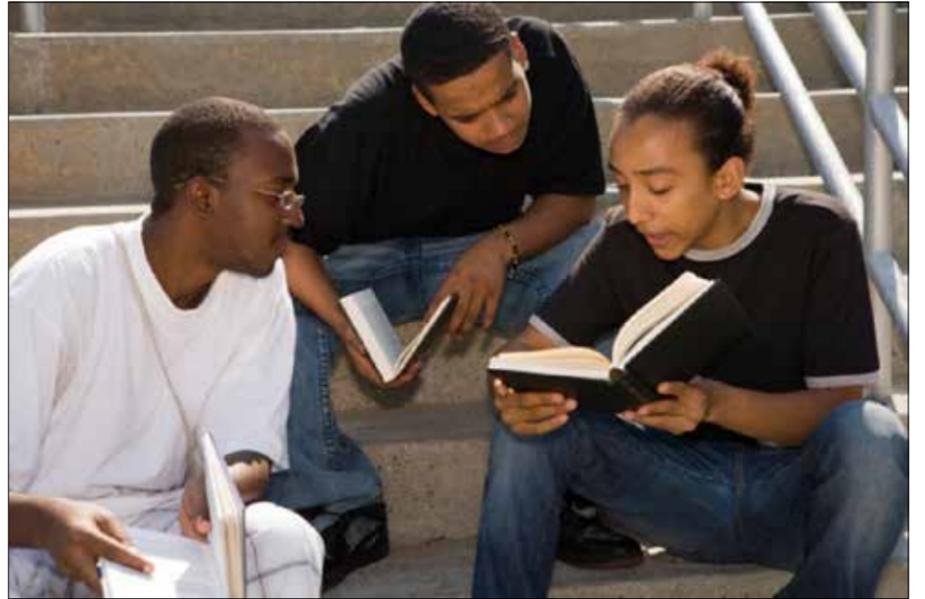
The new initiative will be phased in over three years, beginning for New Yorkers making up to \$100,000 annually in the fall of 2017, increasing to \$110,000 in 2018, and reaching \$125,000 in 2019.

As student debt continues to soar – reaching \$1.2 trillion nationwide and surpassing credit card debt, car debt and home equity lines of credit as the second-largest source of consumer debt--this program will work to make college affordable for students and families.

The initiative will work by leveraging New York State's generous aid programs. Currently, the Tuition Assistance Program, or TAP, provides nearly \$1 billion in grants to college students statewide and New York is one of only two states in the nation that offers this type of entitlement. Under the program, eligible students would still receive TAP and any applicable federal grants. Additional state funds would cover the remaining tuition costs for incoming or existing eligible students.

New York's Tuition-Free Degree Program

Good News for Young People



The high school students pictured here are working together, getting prepared for the future.

also incentivizes students to graduate from college on time. In 2013, only 38.7 percent of students attending a four-year public university and roughly 8.5 percent attending a two-year public college in New York completed their degrees on time. Moreover, in 2015, the average student loan debt in New York was \$29,320.

With an average annual tuition ranging from \$6,470-\$6,330 at SUNY and CUNY for a bachelor's degree and \$4,350-\$4,800 for an associate's degree, the more time a student spends in college, the higher the level of debt. By mandating that students be enrolled full-time, New York's free tuition program will work to improve graduation rates and alleviate the heavy burden of student debt by encouraging more students to graduate on time in two to four years.

New York is also the only state in the nation to offer a need-based loan forgiveness entitlement program that provides awards to New York State college graduates regardless of their degree or profession. The governor's

"Get on Your Feet Loan Forgiveness" program provides up to 2 years of student loan forgiveness to recent New York State college graduates. This program, coupled with New York's new Excelsior Scholarship program, will ensure New York continues to lead the way forward on college affordability.

A college degree is necessary for increased earning power. Studies show a person with a bachelor's degree, on average, will earn about 66 percent more over his or her lifetime than a person without a college degree. Those with an associate's degree can expect to earn 24 percent more than a person with a high school diploma. Moreover, a college education is increasingly becoming a necessity, not a luxury. According to projections by the New York State Department of Labor, approximately 3.5 million jobs statewide will require an associate's degree or higher by 2024. As the landscape of the global economy continues to shift, investing in a highly qualified, highly educated workforce has never been more important.

Opal Tometi, Brooklyn-Based Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter, to Keynote at Borough's Annual Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Every January, artists, activists, civic leaders and community members come together at the Brooklyn Academy of Music to honor the legacy and share the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This tribute is the largest of its kind in New York City. It will be presented on Monday, January 16 with BAM, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Medgar Evers College partnering.

Dr. King once said, "Our nettlesome task is to discover how to organize our strength into compelling power".

Attendees of the BAM event will hear the voice and words of a Brooklyn-based taskmaster who Dr. King dreamed would continue his journey. Opal Tometi, Brooklyn-based co-founder of Black Lives Matter, will be the keynote speaker.

The Black Lives Matter Movement, perhaps the most primary extension of the 1960's Civil and Human Rights Movement, is as misunderstood now as Dr. King's Rights Movement was misunderstood more than 50 years ago. Her "truth to power" messages will be broadcast to the world

when she keynotes at the tribute.

Opal Tometi has been a dedicated activist working at the intersection of racial justice and immigrant rights for more than a decade. Incensed by the 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin and inspired to take action, she, along with Alicia Garza and Patrisse Cullors, started the Twitter hashtag #BlackLivesMatter, which prompted activism nationwide and introduced the banner under which this current generation's Civil Rights Movement marches. Tometi is the executive director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, the country's leading Black organization for immigrant rights, steering such initiatives as the first congressional briefing on Black immigrants. Her work and passion as an immigration rights advocate and community organizer stems from her experience as



the child of Nigerian immigrants. She has been recognized as a rising leader in the movement, having been included on the Los Angeles Times' list of new civil rights leaders in the 21st century for her work building

movements that bridge immigrant and human rights initiatives to the ever-growing Black Liberation Movement. Tometi and her fellow Black Lives Matter co-founders were honored with inclusion on The Root's Top 100 list in 2015 for the movement's social and political impact. In 2016, they received BET's Black Girls Rock Community Change Agent Award in recognition of their contributions to human rights and were recognized among the World's 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune and Politico magazines.

Tometi reveals raw insights into the adversity inflicted by social injustice, anti-black bias and uninformed views on immigration, and she is committed to educating and inspiring audiences to organize and stand together to transform society into a world where the lives and contributions of all individuals are recognized equally.

Brooklyn resident Opal Tometi will keynote the BAM event, the largest of its kind in New York City. In addition to Ms. Tometi, BAM's annual tribute to the civil rights leader will feature performances by the Institutional Radio Choir and the Campbell Brothers. For more information, visit: www.BAM.org.



■ By Eddie Castro

This season the talent of players that came out of the Borough of Brooklyn sure turned many heads this year. Many schools throughout Brooklyn had many standout players who had signature games and performed at an elite level, something that has many Brooklyn football squads looking “scary good” towards the future.

With the growing success of the young men that flourished in many of Brooklyn football high schools, unfortunately, there are no champions crowned this season. One school that came close and will be a team to watch for the New Year and the next coming season will be the young men of

Erasmus Hall. The Dutchman cruised their way through the Public School Athletic League (PSAL) by capturing their third straight championship berth. The team came up short in the Championship game at Yankee Stadium to Curtis. Other notable schools that raised some eyebrows was Grand Street and the boys from Lincoln. Both teams made a city conference semifinals appearance. In the Catholic League, Xaverian made a semifinal appearance with a very young roster consisting of first-time varsity players. In the Independent Division, Poly Prep held their own lead by great performances by top recruit and University of Georgia-committed Isaiah Wilson.

What this past season proved is that it takes time, dedication and sometimes experience to build a championship-caliber team. Let's go back to the Chicago Bulls in the early 1990s. For a couple of years, they were unable to solve the riddle that was the “Bad Boys” Detroit Piston teams. Michael Jordan and company endured some early heartbreak defeats. However, as the team moved forward through the mid- to late

90s, they were able to grow as a unit and finally become champions. With the time and dedication of the players and the coaches, the Borough of Brooklyn has put the city on notice. It should not be long for a team from our borough, for these young men to continue developing academically and athletically to one day become city champions!

Sports Notes: (High School Football) Here are some of the high school athletes and coaches that played a big part of the success that the Brooklyn football schools have had this past season: **Aron Cruickshank, junior quarterback, Erasmus Hall**--He was simply sensational and exciting to watch. The leader of the Dutchman without no question. He made big-time plays with his arm and feet. He rushed for 1,009 yards and 16 touchdowns. He also threw for another 12 touchdowns; **Coaching Star, Danny Landberg, Erasmus Hall**--Coach Landberg led the Dutchman to its third straight title game. He also added a new weapon on offense by adding a better and more consistent passing game for Cruickshank. The defense

had many moments where they looked dominant as well. Although it wasn't the fairy tale ending they hoped for, Coach Landberg had the Dutchman moving in the right direction; More All-Stars, Seba Nekhet, Fort Hamilton--The senior rushed for 1,222 yards and 23 touchdowns on the ground; Isaiah Wilson, Poly Prep--He was, without a doubt, the stronger player on defense. His hard work and success has him on his way to the University of Georgia; and Olakunle Fatukasi, Grand Street--In his final year at Grand Street, the senior linebacker recorded an impressive 131 tackles, five sacks, four fumble recoveries and two interceptions. He'll be heading to Rutgers.

(NFL Football) The New York Giants are back in the playoffs for the first time since they won it all in 2011. Does Eli Manning have more playoff magic in him? It will not be easy as Big Blue will head to Green Bay for a Wild Card matchup against probably the best and hottest quarterback in the NFL in Aaron Rodgers and the Packers on Sunday at 4:40 PM.



Photo: Nathaniel Adams

Kwanzaa founder Maulana Kerenga with his wife, Tiamoro Kerenga.



Acupuncturist Dr. Shadidi Bea Chase-Kinsey introduced Dr. Kerenga at the Brooklyn celebration.

Forces of Nature Dance Theater performed at the Apollo. Photos: Chris Griffith



50th Anniversary of Kwanzaa Celebrated in Harlem and Brooklyn

The 50th Anniversary of Kwanzaa was celebrated in homes around the world and at local venues such as Harlem's Apollo Theater and the Leadership Prep school, formerly Nathaniel Macon J.H.S. 258, in Bedford Stuyvesant.



Photo: Nathaniel Adams

Neil Clarke Master traditional drummer Baba Chief Neil Clarke.



The Climate Change Debate: Black People Are Being Left Out and That Can Be Deadly

→ Continued from page 7

which didn't bother giving any money to black House or Senate candidates this past election cycle.

Funny, though: It's not as if black people *don't* care about climate change (even though they don't talk it up enough). As a matter of fact, they *do*: Roughly “three in five rate global warming and air pollution as serious problems,” according to a 2015 Green for All poll (pdf). Nor is it that there aren't black voices lighting up the talk on climate change and other green topics—in fact, there are *quite a few*. Topping most

lists of notable black greens is Van Jones, the once-estranged Obama White House point man on green issues, now of CNN fame, who heads up Green for All. NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Director Jacqui Patterson led an unofficial delegation of color to the 2015 Paris Climate Summit and demanded that the U.S. government pony up \$5 billion for a Green Climate Fund.

But there are scores of others who have long been in the streets either creating movements, like environmental-justice “father” Robert Bullard, or carrying green flags and studying climate trends, like J. Marshall Shepherd at the University of

Georgia and “urban scientist” DNLee. Brentin Mock, justice editor at must-read enviro mag *The Grist*, roundly schooled this writer about the black folks shaking up the climate debate. And the Kresge Foundation-funded **Urban Resilience Project** touts an impressive pool of black minds on the subject, from Danielle Hilton and Seandra Pope down South to the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's Tamika Butler out West.

Obviously we can't name every black environmentalist on climate duty, but operations like Kresge are funding a hard push to help us find more. That's resulted in efforts like Green 2.0 (and those groundbreaking

diversity reports) to supporting the Building Equity and Alignment Initiative, another effort encouraging links among big greens, the grass roots and philanthropic organizations, as well as partnerships with groups like Sierra Club, 350.org and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Still, LACBC's Butler looks for answers from the black and brown leaders of environmental-justice outfits rather than blank stares from the “mainstream” ones.

“As a person of color living in a historically black neighborhood in Los Angeles, I can't go on a walk in my local park without seeing active oil fields,” Butler told *The Root*. “If those leading the fight to protect our planet only talk about resources and never mention race, they'll never represent or understand the forgotten casualties as our planet changes.”

FROM KINGS COUNT POLITICS

Persaud Starts Year Off With Healthy Living

State Sen. Roxanne Persaud (Canarsie, East New York, Brownsville, Mill Basin, Sheepshead Bay, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Flatlands, Mill Island, Georgetown, Ocean Hill and Starrett City) announced last week that she is starting off the New Year with an outreach to constituents to promote healthy living.

"In the coming New Year, I will be dedicating time and effort to hosting health events and bringing resources to the community that promotes a positive and healthy lifestyle. I urge everyone to come out and take advantage of free flu vaccinations and health insurance enrollment which will take place the first week of January," she said.

From 2-6 p.m. every Thursday during the

month of January, a GetCovered NYC health insurance enrollment specialist will be at her district office, 1222 East 96th Street in Canarsie. GetCovered NYC is offering plans with low- and no-cost options. The GetCovered NYC insurance plans cover doctor visits and prescription drugs which lessen the financial burden of medical expenses. For more information click GetCoveredNYC.

Additionally, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 4th, Persaud is offering free flu shots, also at her office, 1222 East 96th Street in Canarsie. For more information click Senator Persaud **Free Flu Shots**.



Cuomo Raises Awareness On Upped Minimum Wage Laws

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo yesterday announced the launch of a new public awareness campaign reminding New

Yorkers that the first increase to the minimum wage will go into effect on December 31, 2016.

Earlier this year, Governor Cuomo signed landmark legislation making New York the first state in the nation to enact a \$15 minimum wage, which will be phased in over several years. The \$15 minimum wage legislation was passed as part of the 2016-17 state budget. The phase-in schedule on a regional basis is as follows:

For workers in New York City employed by large businesses (those with at least 11 employees), the

minimum wage will rise to \$11 at the end of 2016, then another \$2 each year after, reaching \$15 on Dec. 31, 2018.

For workers in New York City employed by small businesses (those with 10 employees or fewer), the minimum wage will rise to \$10.50 by the end of 2016, then another \$1.50 each year after, reaching \$15 on Dec. 31, 2019.

"No one who works full-time should be condemned to a life of poverty and that's why New York took action to raise the wage and provide the opportunity of a decent life to millions of hardworking New Yorkers," Cuomo said. "As we reach this milestone for a more fair and a more just New York, we are reminding workers they are owed a fair day's pay for a fair day's work and this administration will work to ensure they receive the wage increase to which they are entitled."

De Blasio Joins Other Cities To Support Immigrant Protections

Mayor Bill de Blasio yesterday was one of 31 members of Cities for Action, a coalition of over 100 mayors and county executives from across the country who issued an **open letter** to President Obama thanking him for his administration's support for immigrant families and urging him to commit to further protections for the many immigrants in their communities before he leaves office.

In this letter, local leaders recommend that the Obama Administration take the following steps:

Strengthen support for young immigrants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) by accepting early DACA renewal applications; committing to timely processing by USCIS for initial and renewal DACA applications; and implementing additional privacy protections for DACA holders to reassure recipients that they will not be punished as a result of coming out of the shadows.

Support immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries due to conflict, natural disaster or other emergency conditions by reviewing current Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations and extending, redesignating or making new designations as appropriate; and committing to timely processing by USCIS for TPS applications.

The mayors and county executives also thank the president for responding to concerns raised by coalition members, among others, about the failed, discriminatory National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) program, which created a "special registration" for immigrants from 25 primarily Muslim-majority countries. Representatives from a number of cities spoke with White House officials earlier this month and urged the administration to end NSEERS and continue protections for immigrants with DACA and TPS. Cities for Action now commends the president for ending NSEERS.

"Our immigrant residents help make New York City stronger economically, culturally and socially. We have benefited from President Obama's actions to protect vulnerable immigrants during his time in office. In the wake of the election, many of our residents are uncertain about the future. That's why I am standing with my fellow mayors to thank the president for his leadership and call on him to take additional, lawful steps to help immigrants before leaving office," said de Blasio.



Hamilton Pushes "Raise The Age" Movement

Sen. Jesse Hamilton yesterday joined other lawmakers in a push to raise awareness that New York and North Carolina are

the only states where 16-year-olds who commit crimes are tried as adults. Currently, anyone arrested in the state that are 16 or 17 are tried and treated as adults, meaning if they are locked up awaiting a trial for a

crime or are convicted of a crime they are often put in jails with adult prison populations. This puts these youths both in increased dangers from elder inmates and in situations where they lack chances to straighten out their lives. Hamilton's office did a study on the issue and found that over 70% of the children and youth arrested are black or Latino. Of those sentenced to incarceration, 80% are black and Latino.

"As your senator, I am committed to draft legislation to 'Raise the Age'. The school-to-prison pipeline has to stop in communities of color," said Hamilton.

WHAT'S GOING ON

→ Continued from page 4

Oprah Winfrey, \$2.8 billion, #3; Michael Jordan, net worth of \$1.2 billion; Sean (Diddy) Combs, aka P. Diddy, net worth of \$750 million, #6; Tiger Woods, net worth of \$740 million, #7; Dr. Dre, formerly of NWA, "Straight Out of Compton" movie principal and creator of BEATS which Apple purchased for about \$3 billion, his net worth is \$740 million,



Vista Equity Partners, a private equity company, is underwriting scholarships to the 24 recently released young Nigerian girls who were among the 276 who were kidnapped from the Chibok Girls School by Boko Haram in 2014. Smith's financial assistance for the Chibok girls includes tuition, room, board and related expenses. The scholarship is for the girls to attend the American University of Nigeria. The scholarship will be made available to all kidnapped Chibok girls whom Boko Haram returned to government authorities. The United Negro College Fund is the recipient of Smith's stateside education philanthropy.

#8; and Sean (Jay-Z) Carter, net worth of \$610 million, #11.

African-American billionaire Robert Smith, founder of

A Harlem-based journalist who can be reached at Victoria.horsford@gmail.com.

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NEW BUSINESS FORMATIONS

Sunrun Ragnar Manager 2017, LLC

App. for Auth. (LLC) Sunrun Ragnar Manager 2017, LLC. App. for Auth. filed w/ the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/7/16. LLC formed in DE on 10/20/16. Office Location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o CT Corp. System, 111 8th

Ave., NY, NY 10011, registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful act/activity.

DECK GREENE - 5, LLC

Notice of Formation of DECK GREENE - 5, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/02/16. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon

whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Quick service restaurant.

THE POCUS PRECEPTOR LLC

Notice of Formation of THE POCUS PRECEPTOR LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on September 27, 2016 Office Location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be

served. SSNY shall mailed copy of process to: Jordan Chanler-Berat, 122 Vanderbilt Avenue, Apt. 6A, Brooklyn, NY 11205 Purpose: any lawful activity.

MR CASSAMAJOR HOLDING LLC

MR CASSAMAJOR HOLDING LLC, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 7/11/16. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process

to Ronald Cassamajor, 4613 Church Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

CAMPUS DEPOT, LLC.

CAMPUS DEPOT, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/27/16. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 226 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS Index No. 849/15 SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT -----X USAA GENERAL INDEMNITY COMPANY, Plaintiff, -against- ROGER KEITH JORDAN, et al. Defendants. -----x **To the following defendants:** JOHN CLARK PARENT a/k/a JOHN PARENT, MAGLIORRE PIERRE-LOUIS, CEMS CENTER FOR EMERGENCY AND GENTLE CARE AMBULATORY ANESTHESIA SERVICES, **YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to appear and answer the above-named Plaintiff's summons and complaint, in the declaratory judgment action filed against you as defendants and to serve a copy of your answer within 30 days after service is complete, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the amended complaint. **TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:** The foregoing summons and complaint is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Judge Kathy King, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Kings County, dated December 16, 2016 and filed with said summons and complaint and other papers in the Kings County Clerk's Office, located at 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. **NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT:** The object of the above-captioned action is for a determination by the court as to whether the alleged auto accidents of July 14, 2012 and August 16, 2012, were legitimate accidents or were staged. The above named Plaintiff seeks a DECLARATION that the collisions enumerated above were intentional and uncovered collisions. Plaintiff further contends that Plaintiff has no duty to defend or indemnify JOHN CLARK PARENT a/k/a JOHN PARENT, MAGLIORRE PIERRE-LOUIS, CEMS CENTER FOR EMERGENCY AND GENTLE CARE AMBULATORY ANESTHESIA SERVICES, and/or their assignees, for any claims whatsoever, including claims of no-fault, UM, SUM, or BI coverage in connection with the underlying incidents noted above.

By: McDONNELL ADELS & KLESTZICK, PLLC 401 Franklin Avenue, Garden City, New York 11530 (516)328-3500

File No. 2012-2755/A PA. No. 141207 **SUPPLEMENTAL CITATION SURROGATE'S COURT, KINGS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,** By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Waddell Daniels, John Daniels, Jr., Amelia Redwood, Karl Lee Daniels, Vermella Nelson, Felicia A. Daniels, Avis R Daniels, Tieshia B. Stoney The spouse, if any, and any and all unknown distributees and creditors of VERA DANIELS a/k/a VERA PEARL DANIELS, deceased, whose whereabouts are unknown and if any of the aforesaid persons be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown

and if the persons died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of VERA DANIELS a/k/a VERA PEARL DANIELS, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after due diligence be ascertained, A petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of Kings County, who has offices at 360 Adams Street, Room 144A, Brooklyn, New York 11201, United States. **YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE** before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York, on January 31, 2017, at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day why: (a) The account of proceedings of the Public Administrator of Kings County as Administrator of the estate of VERA DANIELS a/k/a VERA PEARL DANIELS, a summary of which has been served herewith, be judicially settled; (b) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid his commissions pursuant to SCPA §2307 in the amount of \$13,288.46, as set forth in Schedules C-1 and I of the Account; (c) The Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid his administrative expenses pursuant to SCPA §1106(3) in the amount of \$3,096.15 as set forth in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (d) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the legal Fees of Cullen and Dykman LLP, counsel to the Petitioner, in the amount of \$18,576.93 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (e) The Court should not fix, determine and approve the disbursements of Cullen and Dykman LLP in the amount of \$48.00 as shown in Schedules C-1 and J of the Account; (f) The claim of Marie Brady in the amount of \$2,495.75 for reimbursement of funeral expenses, as set forth in Schedule D, should not be allowed; (g) The claims of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and the New York City Human Resources Administration, if any, should not be fixed and determined; (h) The down payment of Debra Smith in the amount of \$22,000.00, as set forth in Schedule J hereof, should not be paid over to the New York State Office of Unclaimed Funds; (i) The Petitioner should not be permitted to distribute so much of the net estate to the decedent's distributees, as now known or hereafter determined, as their interests may appear, and to deposit any amount not so distributed with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York to be held for the benefit of decedent's unknown distributees or for the benefit of any distributees of the decedent who are under disability for whom no guardian of the property has been appointed; (j) The Petitioner, upon fully complying with the Decree to be made in this proceeding, should not be released and discharged of and from any and all liability, responsibility and accountability with respect to the Petitioner's acts and proceedings as Administrator as set forth and embraced in said account and the Court grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper; Dated, Attested, and Sealed, December 20, 2016, HON. Margarita Lopez Torres, Surrogate, Doreen A. Quinn, Chief Clerk; Joseph J. Borges, Esq., Cullen

& Dykman LLP, 44 Wall Street, NY, NY 10005-2407, (212)701-4175. [NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you, and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney.]

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee for Nomura Asset Acceptance Corporation, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-1, Plaintiff AGAINST Merwyn Fraser; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated August 26, 2015 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on January 26, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 220 Nichols Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4134 Lot 44. Approximate amount of judgment \$966,696.08 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 6045/2013. Anthony J. Lamberti, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: October 18, 2016

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. NYCTL 2008-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Pltf. vs. CARLOS ROLON, et al, Defts. Index #27941/09. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered Feb. 4, 2016, I will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on Jan. 19, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 328 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Block 03987, Lot 0020. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$15,564.17 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. BRUNO F. CODISPOTI, Referee. THE DELLO-IACONO LAW GROUP, P.C. F/K/A THE LAW OFFICE OF JOHN D. DELLO-IACONO, Attys. for Pltf., 105 Maxess Rd., Ste. 205, Melville, NY. File No. 09-081076 - #90378

PROBATE CITATION FILE NO: 2007-3003A SURROGATE'S COURT- KINGS COUNTY TO: **any and all unknown persons whose names or parts of whose names, and whose places or places of residence are unknown, and cannot, after due diligent inquiry, be ascertained, distributees, heirs at law and next of kin of said Gertrude Brown aka Gertrude Virginia Brown and if any of the said distributees, heirs at law or next of kin of deceased, be dead, their legal representatives, their husbands or wives, if any, distributees and successors in interest whose names and/or places of**

residence and post office addresses are unknown. A PETITION HAVING BEEN FILED BY Yahn Miorini, who is domiciled at 1616 Anderson Road, Suite 209 McClean, VA 22102. **YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE** before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York on January 24, 2017 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, **WHY** a decree should not be made in the estate of GERTRUDE BROWN a/k/a GERTRUDE VIRGINIA BROWN lately domiciled at 412 Rutland Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203 admitting to probate a Will dated August 31, 2006 as the Will of GERTRUDE BROWN a/k/a GERTRUDE VIRGINIA BROWN, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters of Administration c.t.a. issue to Yahn Miorini. HON. Margarita Lopez Torres, Surrogate. Dated, Attested and Sealed **December 9, 2016** Doreen A. Quinn, Chief Clerk **Erin A. Cummings, Esq.** of Antonelli & Antonelli, Attorneys at Law 225 Broadway, Suite 1200 New York, NY 10007 Phone: 212-227-2424 [NOTE: **THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW APPEAR FOR YOU.**]

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, NYCTL 2011-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiff, vs. NOAM PROPERTIES INC., ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated July 1, 2014 and entered on November 7, 2014, the Order Amending the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated July 1, 2014 to Appoint a Substitute Referee dated May 27, 2015 and entered on June 2, 2015 and the Order dated March 18, 2016 and entered on May 4, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on January 19, 2017 at 2:30 p.m., all that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 3999 and Lot 9. Said premises may also be known as 385 Warwick Street, Brooklyn, NY. Approximate amount of judgment is \$8,341.69 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index # 10267/12. Helene Blank, Esq., Referee The Law Office of Thomas P. Malone, PLLC, 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 927, New York, New York 10165, Attorneys for Plaintiff

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings Bank of America, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST Ramon Burgos, Myrna Burgos, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/10/2016 and entered on 6/3/2016, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public
→ Continued on page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

→ Continued from page 10

auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on January 12, 2017 at 02:30 PM premises known as 120 Bradford Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 3673, LOT: 33. Approximate amount of judgment is \$449,586.97 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 504574/2013. Angelicque M. Moreno, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706

New York's Black Cowboys Have An Uncertain Future Due To Financial Challenges

→ Continued from page 2

heart," Arthur Fulmore, 68, a member of the group told ABC. "Being a cowboy means being good and honest with people, and being straight up."

The current membership of the FBC stands at 18 and they're committed to rewriting the group's history and to keep Black people in the game. Besides working to uphold the legacy of the Black people who headed West, they're also actively involved in working at the grass-roots level to share the love of horses in a bid to help keep kids out of the streets.

They do this through several different activities, including organizing school visits,

rodeos and varying programs for young people. The organization "uses[s] the uniqueness of horses as a way to reach inner-city children and expose them to more than what they are exposed to in their communities", the group's president, Kesha Morse, said to the Village Voice.

"When children see us with the fringe jackets and the boots, that stays with them for life," said Morse to ABC.

Growing up, the 67-year-old got impressed watching her father riding horses at Prospect Park in Brooklyn, sparking in her love of horses.

Unfortunately, FBC's financial challenges are here and they've got to find a way to deal with it. After the group lost

their six horses, they were compelled to shut down. The city had demanded for a renovation of their stables yet they didn't have enough money for that. The city went ahead and placed the group's license for grabs.

A nonprofit known as GallopNYC, which pairs therapy horses with people with disabilities, is set to take over the Cedar Lane Stables in August this year after they outbid FBC. Although the nonprofit will be taking over the stables, FBC will be allowed to keep their horses at the stable, albeit at a fee. Still, nothing is clear about the future of the organization.

The challenges have pushed the group's leadership into a membership recruitment drive, which is mainly targeting young people. They're also trying to share their longstanding values of patience, kindness and hard work with them.

Donald Trump and the Russian election hack: Why is he resisting all the evidence?



(Credit: AP/Alexei Nikolsky/ Evan Vucci/Photo montage by Salon)
Vladimir Putin; Donald Trump

■ By Gary Legum

If there is any aspect of the just-concluded election more bizarre than the allegations of Russian meddling on behalf of Donald Trump, it is Trump's continuing resistance to the possibility that the assertions are true.

This is a man, after all, who has never been shy about sharing his beliefs in the most outlandish theories. He has spent the last year and a half throwing out charges without offering evidence, implying by turns that the United States government was intentionally allowing migrants to flood across our southern border, or that Democrats were colluding to steal the election through voter fraud, or that Justice Antonin Scalia might have been assassinated. He first gained notoriety with Republican voters by openly questioning whether President Obama was really born in Hawaii, sucking up all sorts of oxygen to keep attention on that baseless slur.

Nor is this habit of tossing around baseless accusations limited to Trump's time in politics. In 1989, when five teenagers were accused of gang-raping and nearly killing a jogger, Trump took out a full-page newspaper ad declaring the youths guilty just two weeks after their arrest, long before a trial was even scheduled. This year, despite the fact the men were long ago exonerated, he was still casting doubt on their innocence.

Given all this and so many more examples, it is more than a little jarring to watch Trump turn more cautious than George McClellan, the hesitant general who nearly lost the Civil War, when the question of

possible cyberattacks by Russian hackers comes up. Suddenly the president-elect is warning the public that "hacking is very hard to prove." Suddenly he wants America's multiple intelligence agencies, who have been seemingly united in their belief that Russia was responsible for hacking the Democratic National Committee and other targets, to be "sure" of their assessment "because it's a pretty serious charge." Suddenly his surrogates think it would be "unbelievably irresponsible" to plan a response to Russia, even though the current president has already been sufficiently convinced to take action.

On that last point, there has even been noise from the Trump camp that perhaps the sanctions leveled on Russia last week by the Obama administration were out of proportion to the offense, which makes Vladimir Putin's decision to not retaliate look even smarter. In three weeks, Trump might very well decide to lift them.

That Trump is showing this abundance of caution while at the same time making foreign policy on Twitter by threatening North Korea and reprimanding China for not doing anything to rein in the neighboring dictatorship is all the more frustrating.

This is not to say that caution over the hacking allegations is unwarranted. Being an informed citizenry demands that we do not uncritically accept everything our nation's intelligence community tells us without rigorous proof. But in this case, if there is dissension within the intelligence community about the validity of the accusations, it is being kept awfully quiet.

There are 17 intelligence agencies in the

U.S. government. No one among what is undoubtedly thousands of employees appears to be leaking opposing views to the press, as happened during the run-up to the Iraq War, when the split between the intelligence community and the Bush administration played out in the nation's newspapers. That alone offers a solid indication that there is some truth to the hacking stories.

There are a lot of theories floating around about why Trump is showing caution here, a trait that does not come easily to him. But rather than his being some sort of Manchurian Candidate, or the victim of blackmail by the Kremlin, I'm betting on the most obvious explanation. Which is that it presents an existential threat to Trump's entire concept of self to think that anyone – Vladimir Putin, armies of Russian hackers – put a thumb on the scale for him. His ego would crumble if he had to admit publicly or even privately

that his win was due to something outside his control. It is not for nothing that Alex Koppelman of the New Yorker once said of Trump that he "was born on third base and thinks he invented baseball."

Simply put, it wounds Trump to think that his stunning election victory was due to anything besides his own incredible gifts as a candidate and a person. Hence the sight of his various lackeys, most of whom never heard a conspiracy theory they wouldn't push, pumping the brakes at the merest hint of Russian meddling in the recent election.

What does it mean for this nation, and the free world, to be led by a man whose ego is so fragile that his advisors must spin an entirely new reality every day, or even every hour, based on whatever rocket-fueled insecurity is zooming through his brain at any given moment? We're going to find out soon enough, but it can't be anything good.

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