

CURET Makes History: First Eagle Scouts



From left: CURET Troop 1443 Eagle Scouts Khalil Hamilton and Kiymani Hamilton, were awarded their Eagle Medal at a recent Eagle Court of Honor

By Jerry Hancock

CURET T1443 Boy Scouts honored the first set of Eagle Scouts. The historic 'Trail to Eagle' for two scouts from CURET Troop 1443 celebrated at an Eagle Court of Honor at the West Indian Social Club on Sunday June 12, 2016. Receiving their awards for earning the rank of Eagle Scout were brothers Kiymani Hamilton and Khalil Hamilton.

A Court of Honor is a

time to recognize a scout for his achievements. Both Kiymani and Khalil received their Eagle medal and Eagle certificate for scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout. Kiymani earned the rank of Eagle Scout at his Board of Review on Oct 27, 2015. Khalil did the same on May 10, 2016.

While a court of honor is a special moment for an individual scout, the fact that both brothers chose to share the time together is emblematic of the spirit of scouting.

An Eagle Court of Honor takes on great significance for a scout. While the ceremony recognizes a scout's achieved rank in the present, it also directs the scout toward his future responsibilities. Fellow Eagle Scouts who have earned membership into the Eagle Brotherhood administers the Eagle Charge and Eagle Oath to each scout. The honor to induct Kiymani and Khalil into the Eagle Brotherhood was bestowed upon

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Graduates Conquer Challenges

By Joette Johnson

Recently, the Adult Education Center of Hartford awarded 55 graduates high school diplomas. The graduates beamed proudly in the M.D. Fox School

auditorium as they embarked on their first step towards broadening their educational and occupational opportunities. With high hopes amidst hurdling over challenges, some of which

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From left: Jordan R. Jackson and Dorothy Ashman

CCC: Eye And Door Opener

HARTFORD, CT: Chadia Parnell emigrated from Jamaica to the United States of America in July 2005 at the age of 16. She completed high school up to the eleventh grade level and upon arriving in Hartford, CT, enrolled in Weaver High School.

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Chadia Parnell



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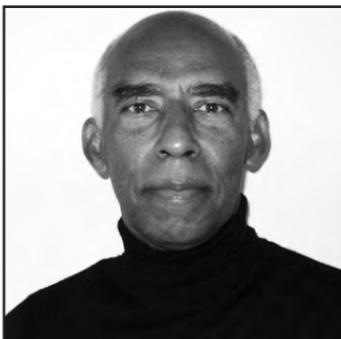
Have You Had Enough Of The Magnificent One Yet?

In very ironic fashion, Donald Trump has put to the test the often quoted and amazingly believed canard, “anyone can aspire to be president.”

What is astonishing is how the media capitulated to the out-sized ego of a man who truly believes that competing for and attaining the office of President of the United States is just another checked box.

The Trump reasoning goes something like this: Ronald Reagan was an actor and he became president; check. Arnold Schwarzenegger was an actor and he became governor; check. Al Franken was a comedian and he became senator; check.

Then there is Barack Obama. He was a community organizer and he became president; check. What’s so hard about being president? I have lots of money—ten billion dollars. I have businesses all over the world so I have more international experience than anyone ever; plus I am my own foreign policy advisor. I make deals and critical decisions above and beyond any presidential



Jim Daniels

contender – some of whom are “just babies.” I have more experience with TV and know how to reach people more than any president. I have achieved more in my lifetime than anyone else in the world.

Because I am so successful, as president, “I will tell Mexico to pay for the wall and they will.” I will let China know that the days of giving us one-sided trade deals are over and since, “we can put a lot of pressure on China,” they will do what I tell them.

Further, I shall tell the president of the Ford Motor Company that he will move his company back to Michigan from Mexico and in 24 hours he will. I will do the same to the Carrier Corporation. And when that is done, I will create jobs for everyone and every community that has been hard hit by the recession will see evidence of America’s greatness again. I will tell Iran that the nuclear agreement with the US is going in the

trash because it’s the worst deal ever made in the history of the world and they will give us a deal that I will dictate. I will meet with Kim Jong Un of North Korea because that’s what a great America does and as the most successful person in the US I am just the right person for this task.

Get the prolific use of superlatives and the first person? The shameless bombast and his transcendence above all others. He is persuaded that the size of our national debacle created by serial politicians can only be corrected by the enormity of his record of unparalleled success and that alone will guarantee the achievement of his outcomes.

Success for him is summed up in his Nevada speech: “It’s hard for me to turn down money because that’s what I’ve done in my whole life. I grab, and grab, and grab. You know I get greedy. I want money, money.” And, on the Second Amendment, “Nobody loves the Second Amendment more than me.” Perhaps America is really angry but if this is where they are placing their bet to address their perceived ills, then anger has blinded them to the disaster that’s inevitable. Trump’s pathology is that of a colossal, obsessive belief in himself alone.

It’s narcissism that’s overwhelmingly enshrined in extreme self-adulation bordering on god-likeness. His relentless use of

superlatives either in the context of a problem to be solved, or as a self-description affirms his pathology. So how has he become the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party?

I do not believe Mr. Trump one day sat down and ruminated that there was lots of unrest in the nation; mushrooming discomfort with the pace of the country’s cultural transformation when he heard an Elisha-like summons to put on the people’s mantle and lead.

What I believe is this: Donald Trump is driven by a deep need for mammoth amounts of affirmation, acknowledgement bordering on worship, as a person of worth. He is the matador who is more enthralled by the roar of the crowd than the defeat of the bull and his bull-fighting skills are quite paltry.

He seeks universal recognition and acceptance of his accomplishments and is doing what the gunslingers of old did after taking down an adversary. They notched their gun belt. Trump simply sees the presidency as an outstanding item on his Bucket List.

He has successfully manipulated the lemmings-like-crowds into believing that he actually cares about them--“I love the poorly educated. I love the blacks. I love the Hispanics and the Hispanics love me.” Research suggests that narcissists are incapable of empathy towards others.

But it is precisely his ignorance of the nature the Presidency that should be deeply troubling to the constituency that has succumbed to his bombast and his theatrics.

Others, because it could spell a national disaster and waft in times of grave global danger, need to scrutinize this man’s meager character and decide that in spite of our disgust for our politicians, this is not the face we want speaking for this nation.

Do not forget he was the most vocal and contemptible spokesperson for the denial of President Obama as a US citizen. Even after he was rebuffed by over whelming and incontrovertible evidence, he continued to shamelessly hawk the lie.

The irony is that Donald Trump is the creature of the Republican Party and he is going to take them down with him whether he wins or loses the election.

You see, from the day they committed to making President Obama a one term president and devoted a relentless barrage of not cooperating with any of his proposals, their obstinacy accomplished nothing of the people’s business and while riding that tiger, they ended up inside of it.

The chickens came home to roost. Now they are trapped and the fruit of their work is stuck in their teeth.

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Capital Community College: Eye And Door Opener To Education, Opportunities, Career

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After Weaver High School’s 2006 graduation, Parnell began working at Burlington Coat Factory in Bloomfield, CT. Five months into employment at Burlington, she decided that it was time to start classes at Capital Community College (CCC).

She resigned from her position as a cashier and began classes at CCC in January 2007. From thereon, a new life began for her. What appeared impossible became possible. “Being without a job was hard, but I persevered. Two months into classes, I acquired a student worker position in the Financial Aid office at CCC,” Parnell said.

Parnell pursued an associate’s degree in Liberal Arts and she was sure that she was on a path to become a registered nurse. While employed at CCC’s Financial Aid office, she got word of an informational workshop about Capital Crossroads to Careers (C3) program. C3 is a scholastic leadership oppor-

tunity funded by corporate sponsors (Travelers, United Healthcare), that allows students to gain internship experience in corporate America while receiving tuition assistance, mentorship, development workshops and much more.

Parnell was accepted into the C3 program and as a result decided to pursue a career in Business instead of Health. Parnell was able to maintain her employment in the Financial Aid office as well as at the Welcome Center, while working at Travelers Insurance Companies and remaining a full-time student. In December 2009, she graduated with an associate’s degree in Liberal Arts from CCC.

In January 2010, Parnell transferred to Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and also transitioned to Travelers EDGE (Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment) scholastic program. Not only did this program, through Travelers Insurance afford her with leadership,

mentorship and development workshops, but also she was able to receive tuition assistance and paid internship at the Fortune 500 Company. She graduated from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in May 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and Organization. In addition, she secured a full-time position at Travelers Insurance Companies in June 2012.

Two years after graduation, Parnell returned to school. “I figured that it was time to start graduate school. I enrolled at CCSU in fall 2014 in pursuit of a master’s degree in Business Administration with a focus in Business Analytics and recently graduated in May 2016.”

According to Parnell’s mother, Patricia, once her daughter puts her mind to do a task, she always presses to completion. She has this drive to succeed even before she was two years old; she was reading that early. As she grew

up, her siblings became her little classroom. She was always the teacher ensuring that her students do their homework.

“I remember that her father had to buy her a blackboard and from that experience, he made blackboards for several children in the district,” her mom recalled.

“I do not have enough words to express my true feelings about her success. I have such a shared joy that just filled my heart to see how much she persevered to achieve her goal,” she said. “Certainly, she could not have done it without the Lord’s help—she has come this far by faith,” she added.

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Actress Anika Noni Rose Honored At Bloomfield High

By Stan Walker

Bloomfield High School Board of Education Chairman Donald F. Harris Jr., said that Bloomfield is privileged, blessed, and proud to have Actress Anika Noni Rose, a past student, who visited the school on Friday, June 3 and a reception held in her honor. She spoke about some of her experiences while at the school.

Principal Dan Molen, in welcoming Rose, a 1990 graduate of the school, said that other former students have made good achievements after leaving the school, but Rose happens to be the only one that has remembered her roots and came back to share her accomplishments with current students.

At the conclusion of the remarks by Molen and Harris, Rose who is currently starring as Kunta Kinte's daughter Kizzy in the History Channel's remake of the film "Roots." And Rose should also be remembered for her role in "Dream Girl," the acclaimed 2006 musical film based on Motown, which she starred alongside Beyonce Knowles, took to the mike following a delightful performance by the school's Select Choir and spoke about some of her experi-



From left: Bloomfield Actress Anika Rose, Representative David Baram and Paula Baram. Rep. Baram presented a State Citation to Anika Rose citing her film accomplishments and how she has become a role model for young people in Bloomfield and throughout the State. He also mentioned that his wife Paula, who lived next door to Anika Rose growing up, was Anika's babysitter! Paula and Anika shared some of their memories.

Bloomfield's Annual Mayor's Brunch

BLOOMFIELD, CT: David Baram, chairman of the Bloomfield Democratic Town Committee announced that the annual Mayor's Brunch will take place on Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course.

This year's Brunch will honor former Mayor Syd Schulman and those serving as mayor before him.

According to Baram, "This year's event will honor those who served this community as mayor, recognizing the commitment and efforts they gave to Bloomfield. Our Town is fortunate to have a history of exceptional mayors, who have lead us on a path that allowed Bloomfield to evolve into a highly respected and successful community."

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and other state dignitaries will attend the Mayor's Brunch. Shirley Thompson, co-chair of the event stated that the proceeds from the event will be used toward a scholarship for a Bloomfield High School student.

Thompson said, "This event is open to the entire community to support our school system and honor our past mayors from all political parties. We encourage the public to attend."

Tickets for the Mayor's Brunch are \$50 per person and can be purchased by contacting Shirley Thompson, Mayor Joan Gamble, or Anne Wall.

ences while attending the school, which included participation in track, singing, and drama.

Stating that the school is the home of her first play, Rose who made her first stage appearance in 1986 as a freshman portraying Coco in the musical "Fame," told the audience that this stage right here is where I found out what my passion was.

"I have wanted to come back here for some time. I'm excited to see all your faces," she told the students.

Rose, whose appearance at the school was part of the sec-

ond annual Celebrate Bloomfield series, talked to the students about a wide range of subjects. I am faithful to have been able to gain these experiences, she said, and encouraged the students to develop a strong sense of respect to everyone.

"Treat people the way that you would want to be treated," she said. "My backup plan is me and your backup plan should be you."

"I'm so glad to walk in here and see dancing, singing, and movements. There was a lot of cutting of the arts when I was here," she said, while speaking on the importance of the arts and the stu-

dent performances that preceded her appearance. On her role in "Roots," she said that when you wake up in the morning and say I can't get up, I think about these people I just represented. "My next step is to produce. We don't have enough options, positive paths, and venues to see ourselves."

Rose, who has a long string of television, film, and stage credits, and two dozen industry awards and nominations, closed her appearance by taking several questions from the audience including one about who inspired her.

Rose mentioned basket-

ball star LeBron James, Eartha Kitt, and her grandmother before adding that "inspiration can come from real, real high and real, real low, or the person right next to you."

At the conclusion of her speech, Rose responded to a request for her to sing a song, and calling up the lyrics from "Out Here On My Own" from "Fame" on her smart phone and singing an acappella version received a rounding applause from the audience.

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CURET T1443 Boy Scouts

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two young men, also brothers, who became Eagle Scouts a few years ago while members of Hartford Troop 263, Jason Small and Kevin Small. Both men exemplify what the words in the Eagle Charge and Oath focus on, the future.

The following is an excerpt from the words spoken during the ceremony, “Kiymani and Khalil, you have re-dedicated yourselves to the principles of scouting, but one more thing is important: your future. As an Eagle Scout, the torch you carry is not only yours, it is also ours, your fellow Eagles and all who participate in scouting.

Therefore, we ask you to continue to fulfill the Eagle Promise alongside all of us.” Hearing these words the scout is ‘Charged’ to continue to serve his duty to God, country, others, and to himself through continued good citizenship.

The tone has now been set for each scout to take the Eagle Oath with a solemn dedication. The final line of the oath portrays this clearly: “To this I pledge my sacred honor.” This part of the ceremony is the culmination of all the values learned through a scout’s time in scouting.

An Eagle Scout realizes he has obtained scouting’s highest rank, the rituals of the Eagle Court of Honor focuses this accomplishment towards continued service and responsibilities.

The ceremony is a moving experience for the scout and his family. It is also a moment of pride for all those who have been associated with the scouts during their scouting years, such as the scoutmaster, other scout leaders, council and district leaders, charter sponsors, and so many more



Eagle Scouts Khalil and Kiymani with Scoutmaster, Scout Leaders, Council and District Leaders



Eagle Scouts Khalil Hamilton and Kiymani Hamilton with their family—parents, grandmother, Marcia Esson (second from right), and Scoutmaster, Dean Rhoden (rear, right)

members of the community.

The Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony is both a ritual and a celebration. While many elements of the

program are common to all Eagle Courts of Honor, room for creative expression to celebrate in the joy of the day is also quite common. A nice moment for the family occurred when they gathered around their Eagle Scouts and were recognized for their support throughout the scouting journey.

A heart touching moment occurred when a bouquet of seven roses were given to family members from the Eagle Scouts to signify their appreciation for their family’s support throughout their progression through the seven ranks in Scouting.

From the scouting side, it is impressive to see or hear the words read aloud from the many proclamations issued by dignitaries such as Governor Malloy of the State of Connecticut, the Masons, American Legion, the Connecticut Rivers Council of the BSA, the Mark Twain District and very significantly from the Boy Scouts of America’s National President

Dr. Robert Gates.

These thoughtful words reinforce the values that surround a scout through his years in Scouting. The aims of Scouting are: character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

Highlighting the ceremony was the keynote address delivered by Mr. Kelvin Lovejoy. As an advocate for all youth, particularly in Hartford, his words delivered a powerful message to the importance of a value-based organization, such as the Boy Scouts of America has to continue to maintain a presence and grow in the city of Hartford.

He was inspiring to all in the room listening to his address, but he too was inspired by the commitment, effort, and leadership that Kiymani and Khalil have demonstrated.

Scoutmaster Dean Rhoden aptly pointed out that Kiymani and Khalil were the first scouts, out of many that he has guided in his years in scouting to become Eagle Scouts and are the first Eagles from CURET Troop 1443. This is indicative of what

stands behind becoming an Eagle; it is earned. The contribution that both of these Eagle Scouts have made as role models for CURET Troop 1443 will serve long into the future.

As an adult, you can be a role model and help provide future opportunities for Hartford’s youth. Also, encourage a boy to join Scouting!

[If you’re a youth or adult in or around Hartford and you want to expand your opportunities like those mentioned above, Contact Dean Rhoden SM T1443 at 860-462-5656 email: dl.rhodengaa@yahoo.com or ASM Jerry Hancock 860-306-3642, han-jth@aol.com.

You can also make a financial contribution to enable more Hartford youths to join Scouting. Please make check payable to Troop 1443 and mail to: Troop 1443, C/O CURET 1443 Albany Ave., Hartford, CT 06112. Jerry Hancock is an assistant scoutmaster with Troop 1443 Hartford.]



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Graduates Conquer Challenges



From left: Elijah Winifred, Joan John, retired CURET teacher, and Donna Beckford



CURET students Judith Dufus, right, and Donna Beckford. Dufus, who graduated in 2015, celebrates with Beckford at this year's graduation.

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included juggling more than one job, family responsibilities, adjusting to life in America after immigration, and economic hardships, they exhibited tenacity, determination, and they persevered. Four graduates shared their experiences on graduation day.

Jordan Jackson settled in Connecticut upon emigrating from Jamaica with hopes to fulfill his dream to become successful. "No one can really define your success. We each have different goals and aspirations. If we let society define success, we then lose our individuality and purpose," Jackson said.

According to Jackson, having a positive disposition, being in tune with his environment, and having the ability to bounce back after a stumble are characteristics of pursuing success. He lives by his motto and has words of encouragement for graduates: "It is never going to be easy chasing your dreams, but your putting in the extra work will pay off."

Jackson has already enrolled at Manchester Community College, majoring in Information Technology with a focus on digital media. He said that he plans to transfer to the University of Connecticut to continue his education.

Dorothy Ashman, another graduate who also emigrated from Jamaica, reflected on her journey in furthering her education 'against all odds.' Ashman has had many jobs to earn a living—as a secretary, preschool teacher, babysitter, home health aide, construction worker, and gardener.

Her yearning for upward mobility is unstoppable. She said: "I love education. As a child, when there was no book for me to read, I would read the dictionary."

Ashman recalls her father's admonition and encouragement to be successful: "Show up and show up early." She lives by his words. "Even though my studies required me to check in for assessment once per week, I came to class nearly every day and sometimes from opening to closing hours," she added.

Her persistence has led her to Manchester Community College, where she is majoring in Social Services. Ashman said that she hopes to establish an aftercare center for children and wants "to help empower women who are coming out of prison."

A couple of days after Elijah Winifred graduated, she returned to Center for Urban Research, Education and Training (CURET) to express appreciation, inspire, and encourage adults who are pursuing their dream to complete high school. Winifred is a source of inspiration and an example of a student who never gave up on her dream to earn her high school diploma.

Winifred said: "Never give up." The journey took 16 years of on-and-off attempts at her goal. Her challenges were enormous, and as a single mom with family responsibilities she kept her eyes on her goal, and achieved it. And Winifred has other goals for continued education. One of her short-term goals is

to pursue certification in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and prepare for employment opportunities as an EMS technician. She also has plans to continue her pursuit of a college degree. With Winifred's determination, there is no doubt that those dreams will become realities.

Donna Beckford traversed a remarkable educational journey with other adult learners at CURET. She, too, has demonstrated perseverance and determination amidst family responsibilities, keeping up with work schedules, dealing with economic survival, attending classes, and passing the final math exam, which presented a fearsome challenge.

But Beckford never gave up her dream. This fall she plans to continue her education journey and to enhance her goal to establish her entrepreneurial visions, which she has been nurturing for a long time. She will continue to take courses in business at Capital Community College.

Beckford told the adult students at CURET that self-discipline and self-regulation are vital; and setting aside time to do homework assignments is another key to her success. Yes, we all have family obligations, she said, but to achieve academically one must be disciplined. It requires careful use of every spare moments and expeditiously managing one's time. She created note cards that were always at hand to review study material. This is a strategy she utilized, given the fact that she had many responsibilities competing for her time. But there are ways to cope with the many challenges and to become an over comer, Beckford said. In fact, this was the theme of the graduation evening—dealing with obstacles.

At the ceremony, Andrew Woods, executive director of Hartford Communities that Care,

delivered the keynote address. Woods told the graduates: "You can overcome any obstacle if you put your mind into it." He emphasized that one's future success depends on the knowledge of one's past and the strategies used to overcome those challenges.

Woods reminded the graduates that they should never forget the support and guidance of others who helped them become successful. "These supports count even more if we allow ourselves to trust others and never forget that everybody isn't the enemy," he said.

In his closing remarks, Woods motivated the graduates to continue their aspirations: "never stop learning and growing; never let someone tell you that you can't complete what you've started."

Making It Easier To Register To Vote

By David Baram

Making sure that people are able to vote is essential to our democracy, and we are happy to announce that Connecticut is implementing a "motor voter" program to increase voter registration.

Starting in August 2018, eligible citizens will be registered automatically to vote when they apply for a driver's license or state-issued identification card through the state Department of Motor Vehicles, unless they choose to opt out.

This system will make voter registration more convenient, efficient and cost-effective. It is estimated that 400,000 eligible voters will be added to the rolls because of the new program.

The program also will move Connecticut in line with federal guidelines under the 1993 National Voter Registration Act, which encourages automatic voter registration. Connecticut is only

the fifth state in the nation to implement automatic voter registration through a motor voter program.

Connecticut residents can currently register to vote through the DMV, but they must request an application. Prior to 2018, the Secretary of the State's Office and the DMV will also be taking the following steps to facilitate voter registration:

- Implement a unified application for licensing and voter registration at DMV offices
- Include voter registration links in DMV mobile applications
- Promote the motor voter program through mailings and information in DMV offices

Voting is an important civic duty and we strongly support efforts to help more people participate in our democracy by making voter registration simple and convenient.

[David Baram is State Representative for the 15th assembly district for the towns of Bloomfield and Windsor].

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Medicare's National Mail-Order Program For Diabetes Testing Supplies: What You Need To Know

By Courtney Porter Jenkins

If you, a friend, or a loved one has Original Medicare and uses diabetes testing supplies, you should know that Medicare is continuing its National Mail-Order Program that helps you get quality supplies while saving money.

This program includes all parts of the U. S., including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

Using a contract supplier: Under the program, you need to use a national mail-order contract supplier for Medicare to pay for diabetes testing supplies that are delivered to your home.

If you've been getting your diabetes testing supplies through the mail and would like to continue to do so, you may need to choose a new supplier starting July 1, 2016.

If you don't want diabetes-testing supplies delivered to your home, you can go to any local store (pharmacy or storefront supplier) that's enrolled with

Medicare and get your diabetes testing supplies there.

National mail-order contract suppliers can't charge you more than any unmet deductible and 20% coinsurance. Local stores also can't charge more than any unmet deductible and 20% coinsurance if they accept assignment, which means they accept the Medicare-approved amount as payment in full. Local stores that don't accept Medicare assignment may charge you more than 20% coinsurance and any unmet deductible.

If you get your diabetes testing supplies from a local store, check with the store to find out how much you'll pay.

You have certain protections when using a national mail-order contract supplier. National mail-order contract suppliers must:

- Make the same items and services available to people with Medicare that they make available to people without Medicare.
- Make sure you get a particular brand of diabetes testing supplies when a doctor or other health care

provider prescribes a particular brand to avoid an adverse medical outcome.

- Never influence or try to convince you to switch your current glucose monitor and testing supplies brand to another brand.

Finding a contract supplier: To find a list of national mail-order contract suppliers online, visit Medicare.gov/supplier, enter your ZIP code, and click "Go". Select "Mail-Order Diabetic Supplies" in the Competitive Bid Categories sec-

tion, and click the green "Search" button at the bottom of the page.

You can also get a list of national mail-order contract suppliers by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Get your questions answered: If you have questions or want more information, Medicare has resources to help you understand the program, including Medicare.gov and 1-800-MEDICARE. Medicare Advantage

Plans (like HMOs or PPOs) will notify you if your supplier is changing. Contact the plan for more information.

[This information is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Courtney Porter Jenkins, Public Affairs Officer, Region 1, Office of the Regional Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), JFK Federal Building, Room 2325, Boston, MA 02203].

Bloomfield Book Fair, Again A Rousing Success



One of the participants explains his book to two patrons

By Stan Walker

Although the number of spectators at this year's Bloomfield Book Fair, which was held on the town's green, on Saturday, June 4, seemed to be somewhat down, the very exciting event was again a rousing success.

According to Marie Robinson, a coordinator of the fair, an art and crafts displays staged on the other side of the green and the fact that it also clashed with a similar program that was staged in the nearby town of West Hartford may have been the reason.

Despite this, however, the fair is one of the highlights of the Celebrate Bloomfield event which was staged over a period of days to celebrate "Everything Bloomfield," met all the metrics including good patron feedback

and level of participating writers that numbered almost 30.

"Many of the patrons said that it was perfect and of great value, so as far as we are concerned it was a good event.

The idea of creating an event that would allow budding and celebrated authors to come together with their readers, supporters, and peers evolved from my experience with other similar events such as the Harlem Book Festival, which occurs in New York each year," Robinson said.

"I felt the need to help expose these talents and was inspired to take on the challenge. My zeal for reading and narrating literature led me to become involved with many authors, biographers, and filmmakers over the years. My desire for the future of this Book Fair is to see it become an annual

event. It will help to generate more interest in reading, particularly among the youth and in cultivating stronger support for the arts in our community."

The authors, many of whom had actually written about some of their life experiences, not only had their books on display throughout the day at their stands, but also got the opportunity to promote their books, share their views on writing, explain how they got the inspiration for their stories, and to read passages from their books to the audience.

The children in attendance had a fun-filled time, as they were encouraged to participate in a number of interactive activities, which included hula-hoop contests and limbo dancing.

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WI Foundation Praised For Its Work

By Stan Walker

Hartford's West Indian Foundation came in for high praise by Janice C. Castle, director of Community Engagement, who works out of Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin's office, at the Board of Directors' Reception held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Windsor on Friday, June 10.

Castle, a native of Grenada, who seems to be new to the community, citing what she has learned about the Foundation, said that she sees the organization as one that can help her in her work.

Her responsibilities are to manage all facets of constituency complaints, correspondence,



Janice C. Castle

issuance of proclamations, memorandums, maintenance of constituent database, management of community liaisons and office support staff, development and implementation of a constituency outreach strategy, to ensure rapid response to constituency concerns and timely and professional response to all requests for assistance made to the Mayor's office.

Hartford is great because of the people who make up the city, Castle said, and that she has found out that one of the problems facing the residents is that most of them who need help do not know about the facilities available to them or where to go when they are faced with a crisis.

"My job is to make sure that the residents are getting what they need," she said. "My aim is to get the organizations in the city involved in this kind of work, and to help them in whatever they plan."

Praising the Foundation for what it is doing, she said that the Foundation is taking care of everyday life, indicating that it is her plan to engage with the community organizations, collect names to add to her distribution list so that the people who cannot be reached and do not know where to go will be served. "I will seek out all the resources that will help us to reach everyone," Castle said. "I would love to see more people having a voice in these affairs."

Incoming President Desmond Collins said that he is proud of the excitement and buzz that the Foundation is making in the community. "We cannot do all the good that the world needs but we will endeavor to help in whatever we can that it needs," he said.

This event is the springboard to introduce our programs that include the annual scholarship gala, summer enrichment, which takes care of children and a youth day celebration that brings the children together for a day of fun. "The Foundation means a lot to us and we must ensure that we continue with what we are doing," Collins said.

Shauna Brown, assistant principal of CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering and the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science, spoke about her relationship with the Foundation, which began from she was a youngster, in particular its summer program, that gave her the start to her career. "As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child and the Foundation is a part of that village."

Brown stressed the importance of the programs that are available at the school where she is now an administrator and encouraged the parents to get their children interested in that type of study because it is in these areas that most jobs today will be available.

Director of Fundraising for the organization, Hugh Freney, who was lauded by Collins for the important role that he plays in the organization, gave the audience a brief explanation of how the Foundation got started.

Unlike what many people may think, the annual West Indian Independence Celebration parade, is not just for dancing and fun, he said, but a celebration of the culture and the struggle that our people went through in order to get us to where we are today.

Woodland Fish Market, A Place To Shop In Asylum Hill

Pleasing and welcoming smiles are what customers have grown to expect when they enter the door at Woodland Fish Market and meet "Miss Grace" and "Uncle Al," proprietors, never fail.

However, their inviting appearances do not upstage the variety of offerings at this store that has been a gem in the cap of the Asylum Hill neighborhood for over 13 years.

Located at 326 Sargeant Street, Hartford, Woodland Fish Market is more than just a Fish Market. One does not miss island favorites when one enters the door at this West Indian American store.

For each season of the year "Miss Grace" and "Uncle Al" cater to their customers by making "Back-A-Yard" items available. From fruits like Guineps to "June Plums" to food items like "Bullas and Pear" to "Easter Buns and Cheese" to "Bustamente Backbone" just to name a few, you name it, it is there.

There is usually not enough "Breadfruits" or "Scott' Bonnet" peppers to fill the multitude of orders for those items. Usually customers who don't make it early to the store have to wait for the next batch to come in.

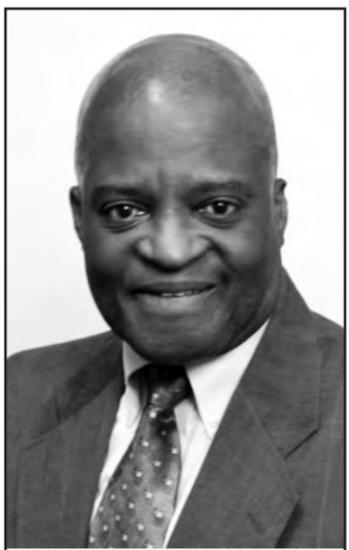
Christmas time is very popular at Woodland Fish Market as "Sorrel" becomes an item of great demand." Miss Grace" is quick to point out that "Sorrel" is available all yeas for those who like the dried item.

As a Fish Market, most fish to which Island folks are accustomed can be obtained. Because of great demand, however, one may have to rush to get the most sought-after types.

The proprietors of this business regard it as their duty to provide those items that customers request as those customers remind themselves of island life.

Items that have labels indicating that they were packaged in the islands fill the shelves that are constantly restocked to meet the great demand.

What makes Woodland Fish Market the popular place that it is? That question is easily answered. "Word of Mouth" In this the era of e-mail, Facebook, and the Telephone, word gets



Christopher A. Service Sr.

around that this store on Sargeant Street in Hartford has certain products which other stores don't have. Coupled with the congeniality of proprietors, one feels a sense of "home away from home"

"Uncle Al" and "Miss Grace" in their unique style make you always feel like you should go back to Woodland Fish Market for something that you forgot to get.

This summer why not cook some "Goat Fish" or "Doctor Fish" or maybe "Turbit" They can all be had at Woodland Fish. Don't be late. The demand is great. While you say hello to "Miss Grace" and "Uncle Al," they may just have some item that you have not seen since you left the Islands. That is as I see it.

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Muhammed Ali Enjoyed West Indies Cricket

By Rudolph Cohen

In 1966 I was fortunate to be selected as a member of the West Indies Cricket Team on its tour of England. The West Indies and England Teams competed for the Wisden Trophy, which was at that time the symbol of world cricket supremacy.

The two Teams played a series of five test matches to decide which Team was to be crowned World Champions.

Our Team won the First Test handily. The result: West Indies won by an innings and 40 runs. That victory was earned despite the efforts of a hostile local press and of an energized English fan base.

The Second Test Match was played at the Lord's Cricket Grounds, London, June 16 to 18, 20 and 21 in 1966, which as of the date of this writing was almost exactly 50 years ago. With the match hanging intriguingly in the balance, the West Indies Team received a very big surprise visitor in the person of the Champ himself, **Muhammad Ali THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME!**

The Champ was in London for his fight against Henry

Cooper. The Champ had been informed that a Team of Black Cricket Players from the West Indies was on a tour of England playing for the World Championship.

The Champ took time-out from his busy schedule to spend the better part of a whole day to watch us play some of our best Cricket of the whole season.

We came back from "off the ropes" to earn an honorable draw and thus we preserved our 1-0 lead in the series.

The iconic picture in this article shows The Champ swinging a cricket bat with very good form. I am the tall player fourth from left. The Champ autographed my bat.

I asked him what he thought of the game of Cricket. He told me that if he played the game he would be a great batsman but that he loved the way Wes Hall bowled and that he also could be a great bowler.

Wes captured six wickets at a cost of 171 runs, a solid performance that helped us save the match. Wes was very pleased with the compliment paid to him by the Champ.

The Champ did us a very

big honor by visiting us in our dressing room and by spending a day with us. Other pictures show him with our Captain, the immortally legendary Gary (now Sir Gary Sobers), one of him resting on a bed in the dressing room and one of him sipping tea on the balcony outside while watching the game.

The Champ's visit was a very big boost to our spirits. His visit was an inspiration, and an indication of his curiosity about, and an interest in the people of the West Indies, in the people of color in England, and in our sport.

After the Champ's visit, our confidence and spirits were sky high. We scored a total of 1217 runs in the next two test matches. We steam-rolled the England Team to win the series and the World Championship three games to nil. If it were a boxing match the Referee would have stopped it.

The Champ was The Greatest. His passing is a great loss to the whole wide world, not just to boxing in particular but also to sport in general. I will remember him fondly, lovingly for always.



From left, Wes Hall (at the time the world's premier fast-bowler); Rohan Kanhai, one of our best batsmen; Rudy Cohen, back-up fast bowler; Peter Lashley; and our Team Manager Jeff Stollmeyer; my roomie Easton McMorris; The Champ; and Seymour Nurse, a stylish batsman.

Caribbean Tidbits

Trinidad PM vows to settle immigration dispute with Jamaica

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) Dr Keith Rowley and Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness have agreed to bring to an end the ongoing dispute between both countries concerning immigration. Relations between the two Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states have been strained over the decision of Port of Spain to deport a number of Jamaicans whom they said would have been a charge on the State for their stay there, having shown no means of sustaining themselves while in the country. The stance taken by immigration officials in Trinidad prompted several Jamaicans to call for a boycott of products from

PM wants Spanish to be Jamaica's second language

Spanish might soon become Jamaica's second official language. Speaking in the House of Representatives Tuesday, June 7, Prime Minister Andrew Holness disclosed that while speaking to Cuban President Raul Castro on his recent visit to the Spanish-speaking country for the 7th Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, the two discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues, including exploring initiatives for increased language training. Holness said the commitment was made to explore initiatives for the provision of increased language training on both sides, emphasizing provision of English language training to assist Cuba, as required, as they prepare to receive greater inflows of visi

EPA \$1b project aims to boost Jamaican exports

Jamaica is expected to benefit significantly from the implementation of the \$1-billion (€7.25 million) European Union (EU)-funded Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) project. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) is implementing the two-phase project and aims to create an enabling environment that supports increased compliance in agriculture and agribusiness exports. Phase one (EPA I) seeks to increase export competitiveness and food safety and security for Jamaican products; provide laboratory equipment and updated measures for improved testing of products; and also staff training to facilitate these engagements.

Rainforest invests \$1m in parrotfish conservation

Rainforest Seafoods Limited has signed a partnership valued at \$1.25 million with The University of the West Indies Alligator Head Marine Lab (UWI AHML) to implement protective measures for the highly threatened reef fish population, including parrotfish, while training local fishermen in environmentally sustainable fishing methods. As the company geared to observe World Oceans Day on Wednesday, June 8, the partnership was joined by Rainforest's announcement that it is no longer participating in the importation, production and sale of parrot fish, the seafood distributor said in a statement

T&T government owes contractors more than \$2B

Trinidad's government owes in excess of \$2 billion to local contractors. Reeling under the pressure, some contractors have been forced to close shop, employees are being sent home and, fearing foreclosure by banks, there is now a threat from some of legal action to get monies owed to them. The grim picture emerging from the construction industry was painted by president of the T&T Contractors' Association Mikey Joseph, who told the GML Enterprise Desk that among the debtors are Nipdec, Nidco, the Educational Facilities Company and the HDC.



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