

Arts & Entertainment



Linda Hopkins and Ruby Hayes
PHOTO BY HILTRON BAILEY

LEGENDARY BLUES SINGER LINDA HOPKINS LAUNCHES RUBY HAYES AS BESSIE SMITH

HOLLYWOOD---- Grammy winning blues and gospel singer, Linda Hopkins, best known for her Tony Award winning theatrical show on the life of Bessie Smith, queen of the blues, is now launching the new Bessie Smith. Washington DC entertainer, Ruby Hayes, takes the baton of continuing the legacy of the award winning role with an initial theatrical run about Smith's life at the Whitefire Theater.

The show entitled "Ruby Hayes Sings Bessie's Blues" is a storytelling and musical presentation which introduces the audience to the musical genius

of Bessie Smith and reveals how her talent has influenced entertainers then and now.

"We are proud to work with Ruby, she is just terrific," says Belinda Foster, a representative for AWJ Platinum, the public relations firm that represents Hayes and Hopkins.

"She has the voice that brings the message of the blues," says Linda Hopkins.

Hayes' personal and poignant performance brought a nice touch to the initial run. Attendees included Linda Hopkins, Platters singer Kris Lamans, and other celebrity guests and blues fans.

Celebrities Kick Up Their Heels For Autism

LOS ANGELES - Special Needs Network Inc. will host its second annual "Pink Pump Affair" on May 16, 2 p.m., at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, where will women are invited to wear pink pumps in support of autism.

Five women will be honored who are committed to enriching their communities and making a difference will be honored at the event. Women of Distinction honorees include Hon. Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles City Controller; Maria Contreras-Sweet, founder/chairwoman, Promerica Bank; Elaine Hall, founder/creative director, The Miracle Project; and Beverly White, NBC anchor/reporter. Congresswoman Diane Watson will receive a Lifetime

Achievement Award.

In addition to afternoon tea, the event includes a runway fashion show featuring the 2010 Spring/Summer collection of Tory Burch, a shoe auction featuring designer shoes by Jimmy Choo, Stuart Weitzman, Marc Jacobs and other popular designers.

Actress and autism advocate, Holly Robinson Peete serves as the honorary event chair. The honorary event committee is comprised of Toni Braxton, Tanya Hart, Dr. Mary Kerr, Vanessa Bell-Calloway, Hon. Karen Bass, Shaun Robinson, Melba Farguhar, Tonya Winfield, Vanessa A. Williams, Serena Williams and many more.

During the runway fashion show, celebrity women such as Tracey Ferguson, of Jones Magazine & BET's "Keeping up with Joneses," Holly Robinson Peete of "Celebrity Apprentice," and Dr. Lisa Masterson of CBS's "The Doctors" will walk the runway in support of children with special needs.

Special Needs Network Inc. is a non-profit, community-based organization with a mission to raise public awareness of developmental disabilities, particularly as it relates to autism while providing education and resources to families, children and adults in underserved communities.

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the country. One in every 91 children and one in every 58 boys are impacted by this neurological condition that typically develops in children under two years old and which affects

their ability to communicate, learn and interact with others. More than 64 million people throughout the world have been identified as autistic.

According to statistics, African American and Latino children are often diagnosed two to three years later than their non-minority peers and children in low-income areas often fail to get the intervention services needed to assist in their development.

Since its inception five years ago, Special Needs Network has provided educational training, resources and advocacy for more than 10,000 families in low-income and minority communities through



Areva Martin
Special Needs Network Founder out the greater Los Angeles area. The organization has been praised for its innovative programs and has been identified as one of the most effective grassroots organizations working on behalf of children with autism.

Proceeds from the "Pink Pump Affair" will be used to fund Special Needs Network's summer camp for children with autism and related disorders and their siblings.

(Continued on Page 7)



Holly Robinson Peete

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PRINCESS OF THE BLUES AT ICE



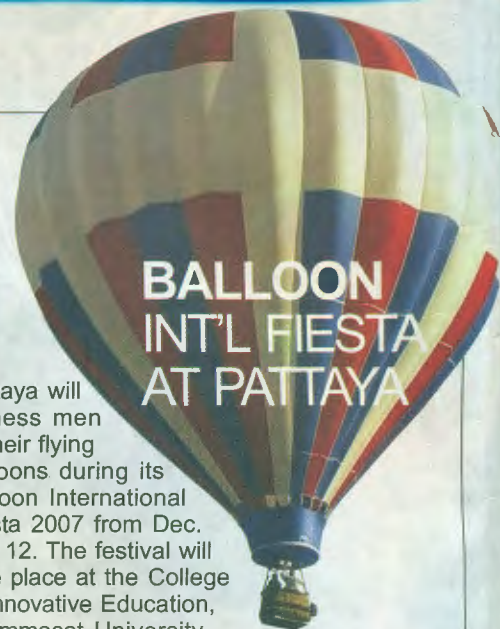
Ruby Hayes, veteran jazz and blues singer, graces Pattaya with her outstanding voice, performing live at ICE in the brand new Ocean Tower at Amari Orchid Resort & Tower, North Beach Road, from Dec. 1 onwards. She brings with her, not only her soulful sounds and pianist, David Currier, but also a wealth of over two decades of international experience to delight audiences. **038-418-418**

NONG NOOCH CELEBRATES FATHER'S DAY

Nong Nooch Garden will have a special Father's Day promo on to honor His Majesty the King on his 80th birthday. All fathers, local and foreign nationals alike, will be allowed in free at Nong Nooch on Dec. 5 if they visit the garden with their families. For details, call **038-429-321/038-425-748**

MIDNIGHT SPORT 2007

The "We Love Pattaya Midnight Sport 2007" which will be held at the Pattaya School Number 8 in South Pattaya (at the corner of Pattaya 2nd Road and South Pattaya Road) from Dec. 1 to Jan. 6. It will feature football matches which will take place daily between 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. A Sontaya Keunplem trophy and Bt800,000 in prizes are at stake. Admission is free. **038-429-295/038-427-710**

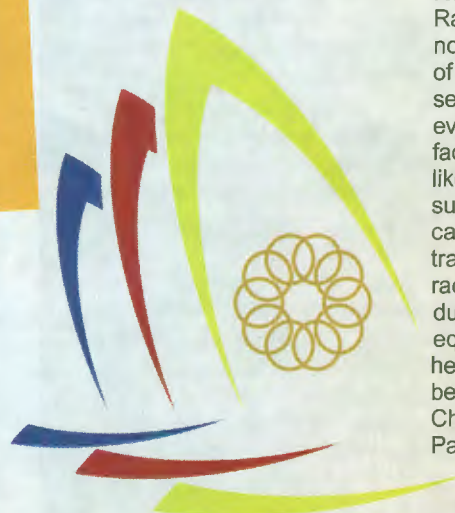


BALLOON INT'L FIESTA AT PATTAYA

Pattaya will witness men in their flying balloons during its Balloon International Fiesta 2007 from Dec. 8 to 12. The festival will take place at the College of Innovative Education, Thammasat University, about 15 kilometers from Pattaya City (on Highway 36 near Bira International Circuit). Opening time is at 6 a.m. to give a chance for everybody to view the balloons as they make their graceful ascents. There are varieties of sports to indulge in, including paragliding, handgliding, moto-cross, Jet Ski, stunt kiting, canoeing and limbo rock competition. **038-259-010-50**

SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES IN PATTAYA

Pattaya City will play host to the 24th Southeast Asian Games which will be held from Dec. 6 to 15. Although the main venue will be at Korat, Nakhon Ratchasima, in the northeastern part of Thailand, several sporting events which lack facilities in Korat like sailing, windsurfing, rowing, canoeing, traditional boat race, triathlon, duathlon and equestrians will be held at several beach resorts of Chonburi and Pattaya.



24th SEA GAMES
NAKHON RATCHASIMA 2007

THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

Day-laborer site spawns D.C. debate

By JULIE WESTFALL
Current Staff Writer

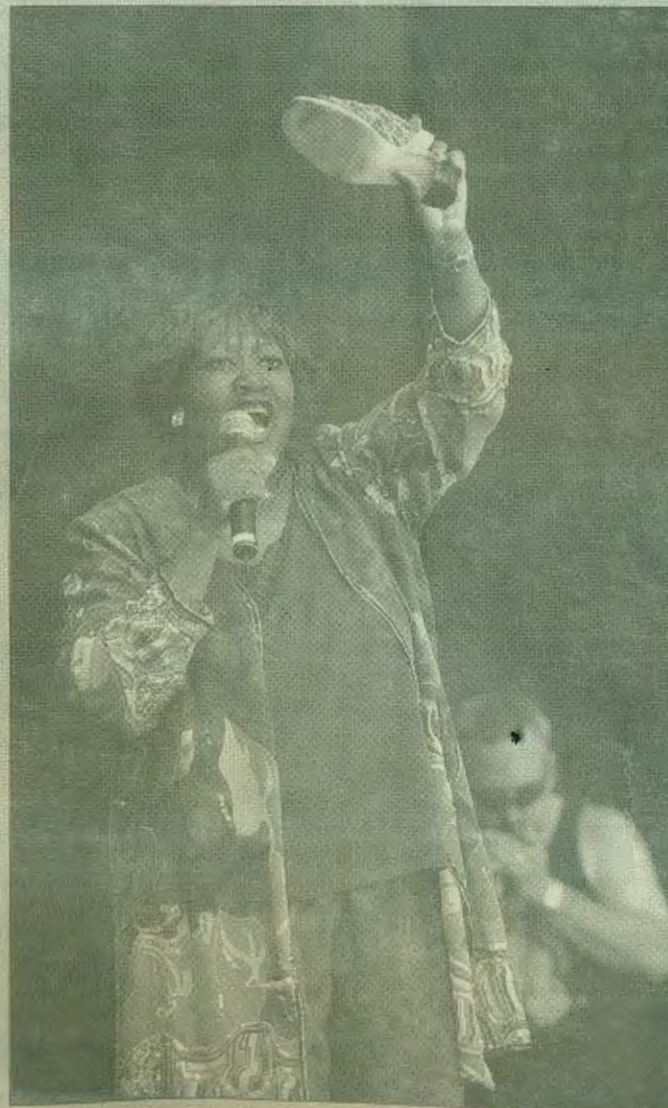
As bitter debates about day-laborer centers persist in the Virginia and Maryland suburbs and D.C. residents complain about harassment from workers waiting on the street, advocates for District day laborers say they eventually want to build one in the city to replace a gathering spot at the corner of 15th and P streets.

Day laborers, most of whom are Latino and Spanish-speaking, say that they hope to organize and that a center would thwart labor abuses and pay disputes. Advocates say the place could keep the men off the streets, institute behavior codes and provide employment services, such as English classes.

"We're people who suffer every day. Imagine what it would be like to change your boss every day," day-laborer Anner Delgado said in Spanish at a crowded community meeting held Sunday in the Foundry United Methodist Church at 16th and P streets to address the issue. "We don't need you to turn your backs on us. We need your support."

But opponents worry that while day-laborer centers might aid a few documented workers, they mostly condone illegal immigration because many of the men presumably lack work visas or any documentation at all.

LETTING THE SHOE DROP



Bill Petros/The Current
Ruby Hayes, known as the "Princess of the Blues," was one of several divas spotlighted at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre during Saturday's 17th annual DC Blues Festival.

Locals aim to assist hurricane evacuees

By VICTORIA SOLOMON
Current Staff Writer

Communities in Northwest D.C. are pouring out support to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in various ways, offering supplies, housing and even toys.

At the D.C. government level, Mayor Anthony Williams greeted evacuees from the Gulf Coast as they arrived and found temporary shelter at the D.C. Armory yesterday. The shelter was set up for 400 people, and the city has pledged food, water and clothing while relief

efforts are under way for victims of the hurricane.

The Chevy Chase Community Center held a concert Tuesday evening with

D.C.-based band J.P. McDermott & Western Bop and offered information to residents about

volunteering with the American Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team and Citizencorps.

The center is also collecting
See **Relief**/Page 33

REACHING OUT: Schools offer slots to victims of storm. *Page 5.*

Superintendent weighs potential for K-8 lineup

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE
Current Staff Writer

There was a time when ninth-graders at Deal Junior High School thought they would be starting this school year at a different school.

Up until a year ago, plans had been in the works to move Deal's ninth grade across the street to Wilson High School and accommodate a new sixth-grade class in its place.

At the time, D.C. Public Schools was trying to standardize the

remaining junior highs like Deal — which run from seventh to ninth grades — to middle schools — which include sixth through eighth grades.

But plans and grade configurations may be changing once again under Superintendent Clifford Janey, who was hired last summer.

Although Janey says that he plans to consult public opinion on the matter, he acknowledged that he favors the configuration of pre-kindergarten or kindergarten

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- LEO BUSCAGLIA

Entertainment

"Ruby Hayes Sings Bessie's Blues!"

By Wilfred Phillips

Linda Hopkins in Association with Princess House Productions Presents! Ruby Hayes Sings Bessie's Blues! Ms. Hayes, performs a one woman original musical about the life and songs of the 1920's Empress of the Blues.

Bessie Smith was born in 1894, in a rural town in Tennessee.

Ms. Hayes highlights and brings back songs that Bessie made famous including Gimme a Pig Foot and a Bottle of Beer, A Good Man is Hard to Find, Trouble in Mind, Do Your Duty, Been So Long, and many more. The scene opens with Ms. Hayes is at a rehearsal with her accompany musicians. While Ms. Hayes was singing, special guest Linda Hopkins (85) was thrilled to hear her sing. Ruby has a terrific stage presence when she sings. She left theater goers rocking in their seats. Her love for the blues was telling. She made a short film with the father of the blues W.C. Handy. She did not have children but she adopted a son. During the depression years the bottom fell out. But she bounced back with a contract with OK Records,

She tells the disturbing story about how she died in a car accident on a foggy night. She was not recognized until blues singer Janis Joplin put a grave stone on her grave, and she was inducted into the rock and roll hall of fame.

"Ruby Hayes Sings Bessie Blues!" is skillfully directed by, Bryan Rasmussen. The play's pianist is Roger Harrison, Bob Sullivan was the drummer, and Abdul Latif played the bass.

"Ruby Hayes Sings the Blues!" will run to May 9. But if the crowds were anything like Sunday's performance it may be extended. This musical is now showcasing at the Whitefire Theater 13500 Ventura Boulevard Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91423. For ticket information and performance times for this event and upcoming solo plays such as "Rockin' With the Ages 2 call (323) 960-4418 or log on to www.rubyhayes.com.



Singer Ruby Hayes



Singer Bessie Smith

2nd Annual Long Beach Bike Fest Rolls into Town May 7 - 9

The 2nd Annual Long Beach Bicycle Festival presented by Wokcano Restaurant is expected

Arts • Entertainment • Lifestyles

Ruby Hayes: The Lady sings the Blues - Live in Pattaya

Blues princess Ruby Hayes (right) talks to Sue K of PMTV about her love of music and performing.

by Sue K

This is one of those all to infrequent occasions when Pattaya gets to welcome a great singer; and this time what a treat we are having as the Washington-DC based blues princess, Ruby Hayes, hits the town and performs live nightly (except Mondays) at the Ice Bar Amari Orchid Resort Ocean Tower

myself that I would be a professional singer. I began at the age 14, leading a gospel choir in my hometown of Plumerville, Arkansas. I toured many town and churches around Arkansas before moving to Washington DC in 1970.

Sue: Growing up in Plumerville, Arkansas, what music did you listen to and did that influence the musical direc-

ing my own songs. I wrote a song titled "Jukin' at Tollies" which is about the little juke joint called Tollies that I would go to on Saturday nights in my home town of Plumerville. It's a blues song. I also like some of the work from Mary J. Blige and Norah Jones. I would perform some of their songs.

Sue: Why did you choose to be a rhythm and blues



Ruby's dulcet tones can be heard nightly (except Mondays) at the Ice Bar - Amari Orchid Resort and Tower Pattaya from 7pm - 11:45pm.

the musical chord structures are what makes a huge difference between jazz and blues. In my opinion, there's the "feeling" that is in the blues more so than in the jazz. I mean, when you sing the blues you must express the song with such feeling and emotion. 'Some say that jazz is more cerebral.

Sue: The Washington Area Music Association (WAMA)

and March 2006. Tell us about that experience.

Ruby: Wow! It was an experience of a lifetime. I took 4 musicians and two audio engineers to Puerto Rico and Honduras for a 15-day tour. Can you imagine; me and six men - and I was the boss! It was such a pleasure performing for the troops and their families, trying to bring a little cheer into their lives

Ocean Tower from 7pm - 11:45pm.

Sue: How do you like this town so far?

Ruby: I love the tropical weather, palm trees and the beaches. It seems like paradise. I like that it's such a tourist town so I get much exposure by singing in one place.

Sue: Do you think this might be a place for you and



What's Hot!

1. Happy Hours from 5 – 8pm
2. Diva Ruby Hayes singing the best of Jazz and Blues
3. New Hi-Tea Set
4. New Tearapy Tea
5. New Cocktail Menu

Review

Jazzy nights and relaxing days at Diplomat Bar

A brand new jazz diva, innovative cocktails, and invigorating Hi-Tea sets keep things fresh at Conrad Bangkok's popular bar

THE Conrad Bangkok's elegant Diplomat Bar has long been a good ambassador for the hotel. Showcasing fine international wines, a long list of innovative cocktails, and regular performances by some of the world's most talented jazz musicians and singers, it's a hangout of choice for oenophiles and jazz aficionados who like their nights out to have a touch of class.

An evening's entertainment at the bar kicks off with the **Daily Happy Hours (5pm-8pm)**, which offer a **Beer Buffet for B550 or Wine Buffet for B650**. With free-flow drinks served alongside some tasty nibbles, it's a great deal. The normal drinks menu also offers good value for money, especially the bar's **new cocktail selection**, which features unique blends

such as Thai Tide, a modern take on the classic Margarita, starting at B320.

The buzz of happy hours settles into mellow relaxation when the house band takes to the stage to perform the best of jazz and blues (Mon-Thurs 8.30pm till late; Fri-Sat 9pm till late). And music fans are in for a treat because they've just been joined by Californian diva **Ruby Hayes**, who'll perform at the bar for the next three months.

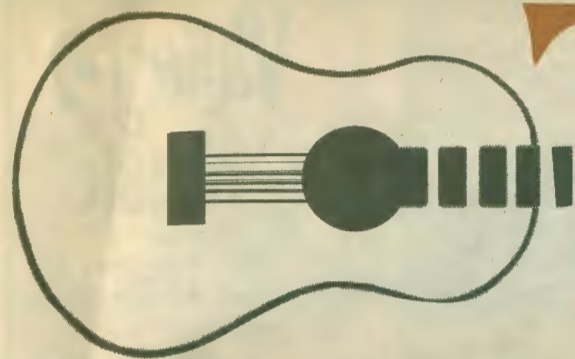
Veteran performer Ruby has opened shows for international artists such as Vernon Garrett, The Four Tops and Cab Calloway III, and her headlining shows around the Washington area have earned her the nickname "The Princess of Blues."

With a sensual, powerful voice that

could hypnotize a giant, she oozes tons of on-stage charisma and has an upbeat, interactive performance style, which often sees her walking the room, serenading guests at their tables. She also takes time between sets to chat to guests, and has many fascinating stories to tell about her life as a performer.

It's not only night owls and jazz fans who benefit from a visit to the Diplomat Bar, though. The bar is open all day and proves to be a great spot to spend a relaxing afternoon, especially if you order the bar's new **Hi-Tea Set**, which features a range of invigorating **Tearapy Teas**, including flavours such as Chai Spice, Lemongrass Mint, and Vanilla Jasmine – which offer the benefits of aromatherapy in a teacup!

FREE

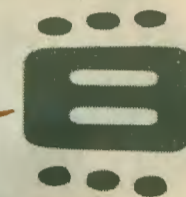


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September-October 2004

THIRD ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Vol. 4, No. 1

ADAMS AVENUE STREET FAIR

HEADLINERS



BLUES
FLOYD DIXON



POWER POP
JUPITER AFFECT
Saturday, 7:30-8:45pm, Rock Stage



BLUES
RUBY HAYES
Saturday, 1:30-2:45pm, Blues Stage

Ruby Hayes is known for her upbeat, interactive performance style. Although perceived as cool, calm, and reserved, she is hotter than the

he Jupiter Affect boasts a lineup of pop under-