**New York Lounge makes an unusual pitch**

By **JAN MOORE**

The Hampton Inn Statesboro is close to completion, and plans are for the hotel to open in March or April. The 90-room hotel is located at 350 Brampton Avenue in the Market District on Fair Road.

Alex Crumpton was named general manager of the Hampton Inn Statesboro 13 years ago. She said nonalcoholic lounges are very common in New York City, and she has missed that since moving to Statesboro.

"They are extremely popular in the city, and there are a number of them," she said. "They are places where people dance and socialize. The only difference is there just isn’t any alcohol being served or consumed on the premises.

"The New York Lounge will be located in the Southern Heritage Plaza which is on Highway 67 South across from the Kiwanis Fairgrounds. Bradley-Gibson said the 3,000-square-foot lounge can hold as many as 162 people.

"I really wanted to create a place for adults to go where they wouldn’t see their college age children," she said. "Every time we go out, we run into the college crowd, and that’s fine. I have a son that attends Georgia Southern. I just thought it would be nice to have a place for people in their 30s, 40s and 50s to go.

"The lounge will be open Wednesday through Sunday. The hours of operation are slated to be 6-10 p.m., with the exception of Friday and Saturday when the hours will be extended to midnight. No food will be prepared on the premises, but will be provided through caterers. There will be a $10 cover charge to enter.

Bradley-Gibson said plans for the lounge have been "in the works" for the last year.

"I am so excited that we are getting close to opening," she said. "I placed an ad for a cashier and a security guard and received 216 resumes. I was astounded." So, until next Tuesday, I bid you au revoir.

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**Lower gas prices expected in 2013**

By **JONATHAN FAHEY**

NEW YORK — At least gasoline should cost you less in 2013.

Hamburger, health care and mobile phones all are set to take a bigger bite out of the family budget, but drivers’ annual gas bills are expected to drop for the first time in four years.

Forecasters say ample oil supplies and weak U.S. demand will keep a lid on prices. The lows will be lower and the highs won’t be as high compared with a year ago. The average price of a gallon of gasoline will fall 5 percent to $3.44, according to the Energy Department.

"Everything is lining up to lead to softer prices this year," said Tom Kline, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service. That would still be the third-highest average price ever. But a discount of 19 cents per gallon from 2012 would save the typical household $205 this year and free up $5 billion that could go instead to restaurant, malls or movie theaters — the kind of consumer spending that accounts for 70 percent of American economic activity.

"It’s a little benefit to the economy, and it’s a little more reason the Fed doesn’t have to worry about infla-
tion," said James Hamilton, an economist at the University of California at San Diego.
Ken Keller: Leaders know importance of creating 'team'

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No business, regardless of size, can succeed without teamwork. No leader can be successful without understanding not only what will hinder the team but what it takes to build a team.

Using two leaders as examples of building teams and teamwork is a model that you can use in 2013.

I am one of my favorite authors and I recently started reading his biography of Dwight D. Eisenhower, entitled “The Supreme Commander.” Eisenhower was sent to Europe in May 1942 to create, literally from scratch, a force of men and women who would land in France and defeat Germany on and under the sea, in the air and on the ground. He also had a major responsibility of building political and military relationships with the Allies.

He took on the task by using tools that had worked for him well in the past; he used organizational and morale building tools from football he had coached in 1930s.

Eisenhower emphasized the team rather than the star; coordinating the efforts of non-athletes as much as the performers of the individual; pulling together people instead of allowing people to go it alone; focusing on the fundamentals that everyone had a responsibility to act and work together; and that everyone makes a contribution. He believed that success comes through and from a team effort.

He wrote: “War has become so complicated that teamwork seems to me to be the essence of all success.”

Eisenhower was right; any organization that wants to be successful must have solid teamwork to act as the team.

While the 2012 UCLA football team lost its final game in the Bridgepoint Education Bowl over, overall the season was a success. The team had its first winning season since 2003. At the time of writing its winning record was 2-10. During its two weeks spent at Cal State University Long Beach during training camp, the goal of the August getaway was to give the UCLA football coach Jim Mora, “…to build cohesiveness and also give us the ability to grind it out in some uncomfortable situations.”

Mora wasn’t speaking about his players being successful on third- and 20. The coach was referring to being able to have comfortable discussions of plays why they did not fully embrace the concept of teamwork and were lacking in understanding the responsibilities and re- sponsibilities of being a contributing team member.

The UCLA players recognize the value of a having a solid training camp, it was the 2012 UCLA football coach Jim Mora, “…to build cohesiveness and also give us the ability to grind it out in some uncom- fortable situations.”

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