

Las Vegas

Black Image

JUNE 2021

FREE

Star Power

**Tiffany Haddish takes
over Hollywood**

Inside:

Celebrating
Juneteenth

Honoring our
graduates



Introducing the
new president
of UNLV



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5·15·21 – 7·31·21



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JAMES CARTER

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

DR. ELLEN BROWN

CASANDRA COTTON

DAMON HODGE

CRAIG KIRKLAND

DR. ANNETTE MAYES

TIFFANY MCNEELY

LOUIS OVERSTREET

CLAYTEE WHITE

PHOTOGRAPHY

CLARK GABRIEL MCCARRELL JR.



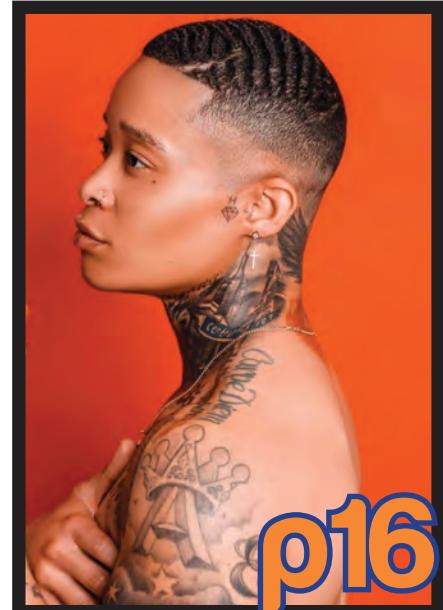
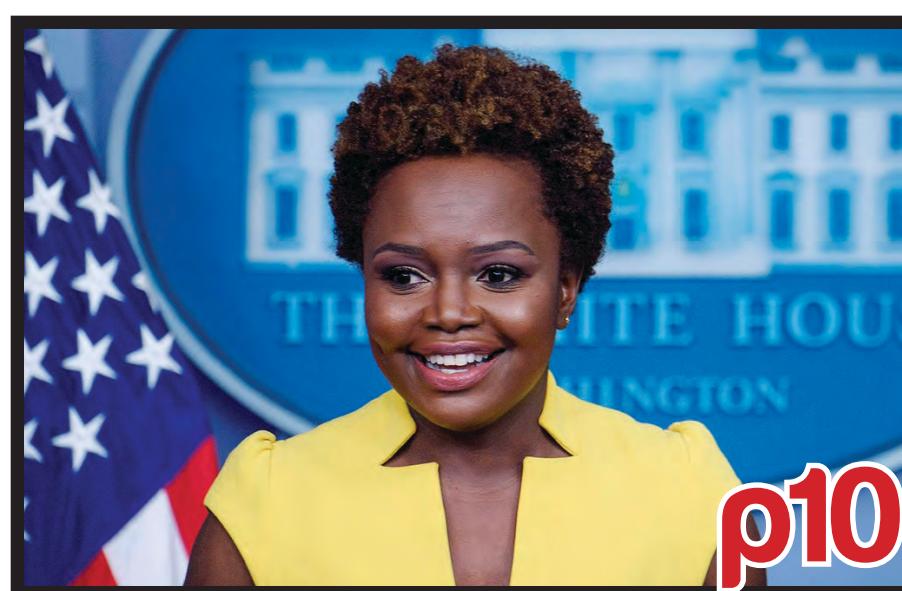
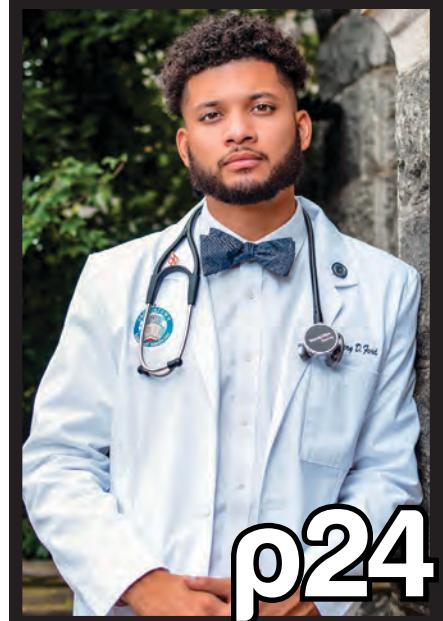
Publishers
CHARLES TUREAUD
KIMBERLY BAILEY-TUREAUD

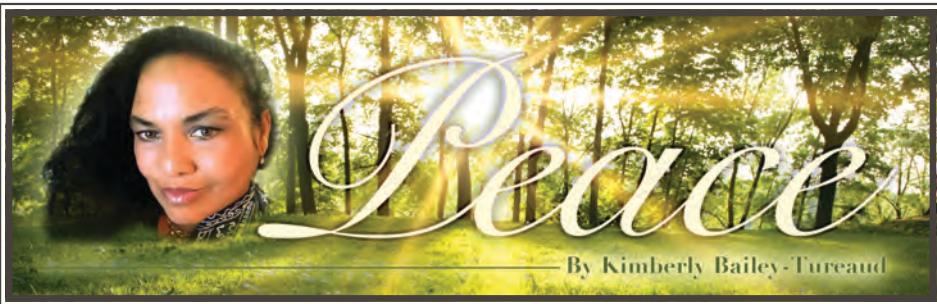
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what's inside:





Reciprocity Overload

How often do you hear — or have someone imply — that “you owe me”?

We are so conditioned to believe that we must repay others for the things we've received. The whole idea of “paying it forward” means that you too will be blessed. Even when we deprive ourselves of something, we expect a reward for all our hard work. This can be a gift — but can also be a tragedy if we don't keep our goals and aspirations in proper perspective.

We respond to expectations from others and what we think is customary. But has there ever been a time when you took a deep breath and just released the expectation of someone doing something for you because you did something for them?

We add to the emotional baggage

we're already carrying if we don't practice release. Every time you see that person who did something for you or vice versa, there may be an unspoken expectation of reciprocity. Peace is found when there is no real expectation of returned gratification.

Can you give and receive without a promise of something in return? The promises to yourself should feed into your soul, bringing light when there is darkness. God's universe has its own will to give and take away.

There is peace in the process of giving without the thought of getting back. Your openness to gratitude feeds spirits of generosity of prosperity. Relax and tune into those spirits — embedded in the love you give to others and yourself.

There is peace in the process of giving without the thought of getting back.

Your openness to gratitude feeds spirits of generosity of prosperity.

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American Democracy Faces 9 Death Wishes

By Louie Overstreet



Judging by our nation's actions, much of the world (some here in America) and I have concluded that, when it comes to maintaining a democracy, America has a death wish. I can think of 9 unranked events or behaviors that are signs of the destructive forces now arrayed against democracy.

9. It is a death wish for tens of millions of Americans to buy the BIG LIE that the 2020 election was stolen from the most corrupt President in our history.

8. It is a death wish to try to sweep under the rug riotous acts of rebellion committed by citizens foolish enough to buy the BIG LIE.

7. It is a death wish to have a justice system that allows police to kill unarmed citizens during traffic stops, yet locks up hundreds of thousands of people by treating addiction as a crime and not as a health issue.

6. One political party has the death wish to destroy the two-party system that has elected a Democrat or Republican to the presidency since Whig party

member Millard Fillmore was elected in the mid-1800s.

5. Beating the drums of 21st century tribalism is a death wish smoke signal created from the fire of racism.

4. It is an economic death wish to sustain a wealth caste system where there are 642 billionaires, 34,000,000 poor folks, and a government that runs annual trillion-dollar deficits providing services that people do not want to be taxed for receiving.

3. Using religious values as bigoted societal wedge issues is a death wish.

2. Attempts at oppressing the liberties of large segments of the population, most notably the right to vote, is a death wish.

1. It is a death wish to reject life-saving science — yet up to 30% of Americans are doing just that.

If you happen to know the three of us — Chicken Little, Robert Ripley, and myself — then please understand that the democracy sky is falling, you can believe it or not, and I told you so!

I can think of 9 unranked events or behaviors that are signs of the destructive forces now arrayed against democracy.

Excellence in education

This issue of Las Vegas Black Image celebrates "Excellence in Education," honoring the young people – and supportive families – who have shown commitment and discipline on the journey to educational advancement. And we introduce Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, the new president of UNLV, who gave an exclusive interview about his vision for leading the campus.

Pride Month is now underway in Las Vegas, and we celebrate alongside our brothers and sisters standing against bigotry and advocating for equality in the Silver State.

Our contributing writers once again bring a wealth of information and motivation, and we thank all of them for making Black Image shine bright –

from showing us how to use power to proving that Health is the New Happy. Speaking of wealth: Nevada State Bank's Craig Kirkland once again brings the financial knowledge to help us thrive.

Finally, a special note of gratitude to all of our loyal advertisers. Thank you for showing Black lives matter with your dedicated support of the leading African-American-owned publication in Nevada..

Rise!

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Las Vegas Black Image publishers Charles Tureaud and Kimberly Bailey Tureaud

We showed remarkable resilience

By Sharica Lee

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do" — Pelé



Sharica Lee

Like many of you, I am a symbol of academic excellence that represents the College of Southern Nevada, Class of 2021. My journey at CSN was fueled with anxiety. Thoughts of discouragement constantly

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What should police reform look like in Nevada?



Leslie Ann Turner

We need to reprioritize state funding to resources for those communities most impacted by the criminal legal system – in other words, defund the entire carceral system over time, including police. We should be investing in what the community needs to thrive.



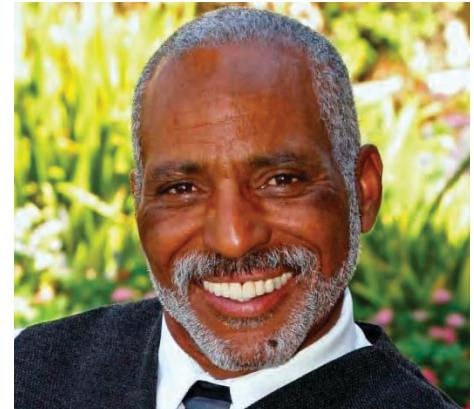
Shirley Edmond

I would like to see more recruiting among minorities. I do believe that we need properly trained law enforcement officers to keep peace in our communities. But, those involved in excessive physical confrontations must be vetted and held accountable.



Stephen Munford

Require the police to have a minimum 2 years associates degree. Also, they should have a multicultural education curriculum requirement that is continuous throughout an officer's career. A minimum physical size requirement or physical fitness and strength requirement should be implemented. I feel some police officers feel they need to use deadly force because they don't feel confident enough to handle physical altercations – so they go directly to lethal options.



James Allen

There needs to be independent psychology testing of police and removal of police unions. Any protection from civil and criminal liability should not exist. No police officer who is being investigated should receive suspension with pay. Anyone caught in the wrong should lose their pensions. All officers should have body cameras activated while on duty and any questionable actions should be released to an independent committee and the police immediately.



Paul Maclin

This is how policing started and it was for a specific people. I do not want police defunded; I want the racist ones off the force and only the good cops can make that happen.



Dan Napier

Nothing can change hearts that are bigoted and racist. We must decipher from top to bottom those who are racist and get them out of policing. It's just that simple.



Carmen D. Jackson

Automatic release of body cam videos of all officer-involved deaths to an independent review board immediately following incidents.



Claytee White

Enforce a citizen's oversight committee with resources and power to oversee questionable police activities.



My younger self would not believe the position I am in

By Adrian Bell

Going to college wasn't a certainty for me. Neither of my parents obtained a college degree, and many of my idols at the time only went to college for sports. I didn't feel like I had a purpose to pursue higher education. As I look at my awards with graduation on the horizon, my younger self would not believe the position

I am in now: a college student with a 4.0 GPA, about to graduate with an associates degree in business.

My parents inspired a change in my decision-making. The older I became, the more I had to see them sacrifice to provide, from their dreams and aspirations to even their physical well-being. The realization came when I realized that although my parents worked the majority of life, sometimes gruesome work, they had nothing to show for it.

Even if my parents stop working, they have nothing to fall back on because like many, we lived paycheck to paycheck. When I decided to attend college, I was in search of answers. I wanted to know how to create wealth because wealth brings



Adrian Bell

financial freedom. By figuring this out, my parents would finally be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor, but with any meaningful journey, there are obstacles. When attending college, I was always wondering if I had a chance to succeed.

Being a business major, I couldn't ignore Forbes and

their long list of billionaires and millionaires across the globe. It was discouraging to have to go farther and farther down the list to find a successful Black business owner. Representation is important for anyone when attaining success.

It was actually because of a lack of representation that I was able to overcome my own inner obstacles. One of the reasons I continue to pursue a degree is because I want to increase the number of minorities that become financially successful. With the knowledge I have acquired so far, I have already begun working toward this goal — by teaching many of my friends and family how to build wealth.

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racing through our minds:

"Are we truly ready for this?"
"Do we belong here?"

"After a 15 year break from school, can I fulfill my dream of earning an associates degree in psychology?"

It was the birth of my daughter, a gift

After a 15 year break from school, can I fulfill my dream of earning an associates degree in psychology?

of genuine love that allowed me to develop spiritually and provoked my motivation for change. I was inspired to help others persevere just as I have — in areas of self-discipline,

spirituality, mental health and emotion-

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Cheria Goodloe celebrates her daughter Julianna Bias for graduating from Sunrise Mountain High School.



Congratulations to Ajani for his recent graduation.



Congratulations to Prince Ray Anthony Barker III on his graduation.



Dr. Johnnie Woodson III recently graduated in the inaugural class of UNLV's School of Medicine.



Jackee Cahee congratulates her grandson on his recent graduation from Bishop Gorman High School.

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ALWAYS RIGHT HERE

How Tiffany Haddish is conquering Hollywood



Is anyone really surprised that Tiffany Haddish is being floated as a talk show successor to Ellen DeGeneres? She's not only a bankable movie ("Girls Trip," "Night School") and TV ("The Last O.G.") star, but she's been sharpening her hosting skills on CBS' "Kids Say the Darndest Things."

Haddish recently addressed the rumors during a recent appearance with "The Breakfast Club" — saying that she'd be open to the opportunity "if I could get what Ellen's getting. ... I haven't commented on it because ain't nobody that gives those jobs talked to me about it. The reason I've even been popping up as a guest host for the Ellen Show is because she wanted some days off. I'm learning a new skill, that's it. Y'all just watching me learn in front of everybody."

In the meantime, Haddish is winning notice opposite Billy Crystal in "Here Today," in which the pair

star as a pair who forge an unlikely yet hilarious and touching friendship that grows into a deep bond that kicks the generation gap aside and redefines the meaning of love and trust. When Crystal — who also directed — reached out to Haddish about taking the role of Emma Payne, she gave an immediate yes.

"I'm only looking for roles that inspire me, drama or comedy," says Haddish. "As long as it makes me feel something, then I'm interested. I was especially drawn in by the fact that Billy's character, Charlie, is losing his memory. I have a family member going through that right now, and I think that's something powerful that needs to be talked about."

For Haddish, the movie has a lot to say about how we care for the people who mean the most to us — blood relations or not. "I would love this movie to inspire people to share their story—do a memory book

or write something so there can be a history of documentation of what we've all done, or funny moments they've shared. And it doesn't have to be a family member. If someone is important to you, you can love them and look out for them like they are."

According to Haddish, her collaboration with Crystal is a perfect match. "Billy and I hit it off the first time we met," she said. "When we'd talk on the phone from time to time, it was always funny and great conversation. But then, that's not surprising. I have good chemistry with most human beings, because I treat people the way I want to be treated. Billy is a regular person — I understand his method and where he's coming from. He's very traditional and that kept me feeling safe, because I knew what to expect. I enjoy him very much."

Sickle Cell Disease and Pregnancy

By Dr. Annette Mayes OB/GYN

A pregnant woman with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is more likely to have problems that can affect the health of her unborn baby than a woman without SCD. The disease can become more severe during pregnancy – and pain episodes can occur more often. A pregnant woman with SCD is at a higher risk of preterm labor, having a low birthweight



baby or other complications. However, with early prenatal care and careful monitoring throughout pregnancy, a woman with SCD can have a healthy pregnancy.

SCD is recessive, which means that both parents must pass on the sickle cell gene for a child to be born with SCD. During pregnancy there is a test to find out if the baby will have SCD, SCT, or neither one. The test usually is done after the second month of pregnancy.

Women with Sickle Cell Trait (SCT)

can also have a healthy pregnancy. Women with SCD or SCT might want to see a genetic counselor for information about the disease and the chances that SCD or SCT will be passed to their baby.

What is sickle cell anemia?

Sickle Cell Anemia, or sickle cell disease (SCD) is a genetic disease of the red blood cells (RBCs). Normally, RBCs are shaped like discs, which give them the flexibility to travel through even the smallest blood vessels. However, with this disease, the RBCs have an abnormal crescent shape resembling a sickle. This

makes them sticky and rigid and prone to getting trapped in small vessels, which blocks blood from reaching different parts of the body. This can cause pain and tissue damage.

SCD is an autosomal recessive condition. You need two copies of the gene to have the disease. If you have only one copy of the gene, you are said to have sickle cell trait (SCT).

For more information, call Las Vegas All Women's Care at (702) 522-9640. Or visit us at 700 Shadow Lane #165 in Las Vegas.

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Alexandra Bailey graduated from Stanford Law School in June 2021 after graduating from USC on a full-ride scholarship. She was a member of the Stanford Black Law Students Association and an editor of the Stanford Law Review.



Monique Gabrielle received her Bachelors of Arts Degree in Psychology from Spelman College in Atlanta.



Kennedy Johnson graduated from Las Vegas Academy of the Arts Class of 2021.



Animal Instinct

Melaney Mayes, Duke Graduate, is starting her fourth year of veterinary school at UC Davis. She is studying small animal medicine and plans to specialize in animal ophthalmology.

<< continued from page 7

al intelligence. Many of us approached our educational journey with the intent to better ourselves and become better role models for our children.

During this trying time of a global pandemic, we are the largest graduating class in CSN history. Why? Because we anchored our position, and showed remarkable resilience in our educational journey. Class of 2021, we conquered remote learning. How many of you created a school/work office at the dining room table and broke away to your bathroom, car, balcony and/or closet to take a timed test in silence? We've done it all, with enhanced time management skills and established healthy balances between student life and work/family.

We communicated with our professors, organized study groups and we won't forget the 11:59 assignment deadlines on Canvas –which have done us all well! We did it, graduates! This is an ideal moment for us: we are celebrating wisdom through gained knowledge. In the distinguished words of Malcolm X, "Education is the passport for the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who plan for it today."

I would like to thank God for developing my strengths in spiritual wisdom and my family for their amazing support. #IWORK4GOD

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Cheryl West celebrating her birthday



Kathy Lattimore and her mother Cheryl Brown enjoying a beautiful Sunday.



Taylor Ashlyn was recently sworn-in as a new attorney by Judge Bennett-Haron.



Alicia Taylor and her husband enjoyed their vacation in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.



Christian Shelton received the Dr. Thomas E. Wilson Outstanding Scholarship and Community Service Award given by UNLV's Alliance of Professionals of African Heritage.



Madeline Kelley recently attended a Mother's Day lunch along with her godmother and her children.



Thomas King and his wife celebrate 30 years of marriage.



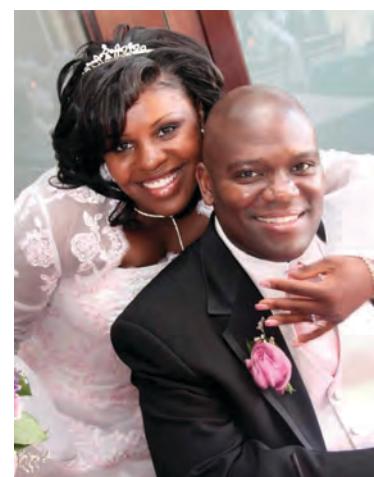
Karine Jean-Pierre became the second Black woman and the first openly gay woman to brief the White House press.



Songstress, poet, and author Brittany Soul enjoys the Vegas mountains.



Deidra Green celebrates her birthday with her grandchildren and her family.



Meditation coach Chris Hatter and his wife celebrate their 9th wedding anniversary.



Vince Richardson receives a visit from Otis Harris and Trisha Harris his kindergarten teacher.

What happened to the housing bills in the Nevada Legislature?

As the Housing Justice Organizer for the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada and a member of the Nevada Housing Justice Alliance, we were following a specific set of housing, economic, and reproductive justice bills during this 81st Nevada Legislative Session.

Unfortunately, so many of the housing bills that were going to help families stay in their homes — and create better balance between landlords and tenants — are now dead and gone. What's most disheartening is that with a Democratic governor and Democrats controlling both houses of the legislature, these bills have died mostly in the house they originated in.

The Nevada Assembly is the people's house, yet the people are being put out of their homes because our legislators haven't shown the political courage or will to stand up to the realty association, apartment association, and developers. It really begs the question: When you look at their political fundraising, who's really being represented as the families we work alongside are being put out of their homes? They're being displaced and uprooted — and now the bills that we're going to bring some ease to those families are dead.

AB317, sponsored by Assemblywoman Cecelia Gonzalez, would have essentially made it illegal for landlords to discriminate against people based on their source of income, such as a housing voucher. AB332, sponsored by Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, would have mandated that landlords register with the state — so



that tenants could easily research their business practices and know whether they'd been the source of complaints. AB334, sponsored by Assemblywoman Shondra Summers-Armstrong, would have created a local trust to allow for the building of affordable housing through a linkage fee.

Senate Bill 114, sponsored by Senator Pat Spearman, would have protected people from

homeowner associations that place liens against people's homes for nonpayment of nominal HOA fees. Senator Julia Ratti's Senate Bill 218 was the last best hope for true tenant protections against predatory fees — increasing the amount of time you had to pay your rent, providing a grace period before late fees are assessed, and expediting the return of security deposits that families may rely on in order to find somewhere new to live.

So what's left?

AB141, sponsored by Assemblyman Howard Watts, has been extremely watered down to just seal evictions for non-payment during COVID-19 pandemic if they were done for non-payment of rent.

Assembly Bill 161, sponsored by Assemblywoman Selena Torres, was going to ban summary evictions in which landlords just remove tenants from their homes without ever taking them to court. It has been pared down to a study, and we need your help to make sure that it gets over the finish line.

Get involved, know your rights and stay engaged by emailing tmoore@plannevada.org or texting 530.955.1422

Celebrating Juneteenth

This month, we celebrate the 156th anniversary of the 13th Amendment, or Juneteenth. The results of this historic act are realized by companies like Southwest Gas on a daily basis — we all count, we all matter, and we all deserve to be treated equally, with respect and dignity. Unfortunately, the intent of the amendment has yet to be fully implemented based on what African American citizens continue to experience in 2021.

Southwest Gas employees understand the significance of Juneteenth and how we can pay homage to those who fought so hard before us by educating those around us — and in the end, eradicating systemic injustices. The robust commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion at Southwest Gas focuses on removing biases or unfair treatment against a group of people, and employees can apply it to both personal and professional lives.

Robin Pierce, director of Enterprise Project Management Office, says, "My mother often reminds me that although the 13th Amendment was ratified over a century ago, the residue of slavery still exists today. Growing up in the South, she did not learn about Juneteenth un-

til she was an adult and moved to Las Vegas in the '80s, as it was not taught in schools. Juneteenth and my mother inspire me to work harder, do better, and to never stop breaking barriers."

Part of the equity stressed in the Southwest Gas DEI department involves digital access. "The digital divide is a core component of what is driving the racial wealth gap in the U.S.," says Courtney Moore, director of DEI and Supplier Diversity. "In today's society, equitable access to information is more important than ever. Recent studies show that 76% of homes with White U.S. residents have internet access, compared to just 56% for homes with Black U.S. residents."

Every step we take to apply all that has been learned since Emancipation Day gets us closer to an environment free of discrimination, a society of equality and support.

"We at Southwest Gas recognize that we can't just count our people, but in fact, seek to make our people count," says Reagan Monroe, director of System Integrity. "As such, making our company all the stronger. It's an ideology that this country would be well-served to adopt."



First in class: UNLV's first medical school students graduate



Fifty members of UNLV's Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine crossed the Thomas & Mack Center stage to accept their M.D. degrees on May 7, marking a culmination for the school's first graduating class.

This talented group of future doctors joined UNLV in 2017 — and though they came from colleges nationwide, all have

strong ties to the Silver State. Since their arrival at UNLV, the School of Medicine has achieved full accreditation, and a new medical campus for future classes is under construction in the heart of the Las Vegas Medical District. Every member of the class was selected for residencies in Nevada and around the nation.

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The 20th Annual Juneteenth Festival will take place on June 19 — an outdoor event featuring food, entertainment, community speakers, and vendors.

The Las Vegas Juneteenth Festival was established 20 years ago by respected educator and philanthropist Diane Pollard, to support the Rainbow Dreams Educational Foundation and Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School —

which provide elite educational opportunities and scholarships to underserved youth in the Historic Westside community.

The community will come together to celebrate the impact of African-American culture and heritage — and most importantly, to reflect on the abolition of slavery in 1865.

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Positive Vibes

By Tiffany McNeely

Have you ever noticed how your energy changes after you think about situations or people that make you upset? Your heartbeat changes, you get hot, your mood is down, and you just don't feel excited or happy.

Negative thoughts send you down a spiraling staircase of other negative thoughts that cause physical changes in your body. These very thoughts can cause stress, anxiety, high blood pressure, fatigue, changes in sleep



patterns, and inability to focus. Sometimes I find that if I allow one thought then in comes the second, third, and fourth. They don't stop. Hours later and you have just put yourself through hell on earth. For what reason? We have to learn how to control our minds so that we can remain in a healthy environment mentally and physically. Our thoughts create our reality.

We have to take time to protect ourselves from self-sabotage. Now notice what happens to your body when you think of things that bring you joy and happiness. You become energetic, light

feeling, excited, motivated, your body relaxes, and overall you're inspired.

Positive thoughts make us feel good. Growth comes when there is positivity. We can do more when we are happy and feel alive. People with a family history of heart disease who also had a positive outlook were one-third less likely to have a heart attack or other cardiovascular event within five to 25 years than those with a more negative outlook. Those are the findings of Johns Hopkins expert Lisa R. Yanek, M.P.H. and her colleagues.

You can take daily steps to keep yourself in a positive place and ditch those negative thoughts.

1. Recite powerful affirmations daily.

Take 15 minutes in the morning to recite them to yourself.

2. Keep a journal to write down all positive thoughts and goals.

3. Surround yourself with people who are uplifting and love life.

4. Add more fruits and vegetables to your diet. Heavy carbs and sugars can weigh you down.

5. Take time out for you! Take a bath, run a mile, go to your favorite restaurant, go laugh with friends!

6. Replace negative thoughts with positive thoughts. Don't go down the spiral staircase.

7. Best of all: love yourself and give yourself grace!

HISTORIC BLACK VEGAS

The words of Rev. Donald Clark

By Claytee D. White



An old African proverb states that "When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground."

How very accurate in the case of Donald Clark. Although he did not accept an invitation to be interviewed, his wisdom led him to donate a small collection to Special Collections & Archives in the Lied Library at UNLV. This short article shows how important it is to save and share your papers and those of your organizations with the university, a museum, or a library that has the capacity to preserve items for future generations.

On February 24, 1961, the Las Vegas NAACP presented a Certificate of Merit to Rev. Donald Clark signed by Dr. J.B. McMillan, president. By July, Clark had become president of the NAACP and began a massive letter writing campaign to alter the area's perception of systemic

racism in employment. On July 26, 1961, he sent a letter and resolution to the City Commissioners demanding an open-door policy throughout the gaming industry along with employment opportunities for the Black community.

On the first day of October, he wrote to Vegas Village Corporation: "The NAACP has noticed after very careful and thorough investigation, that although your store is very substantially patronized by residents of West Las Vegas, and in spite of the fact that a number of your stockholders are members of the NAACP and residents of the West Las Vegas, that there is not a single Negro, man or woman, employed in any capacity whatsoever except of a janitorial nature."

On October 14, 1961 he penned a letter to the City, that stated: "It takes no courage for the Mayor, or other elected officials, to shunt a minority into the background because that's where the minority is already. It does, however, take

courage for the Mayor to do the unpopular thing and try to bring democracy where none exists. Don't you think it is strange that there isn't a Negro of any stature whatsoever in any employment in the City of Las Vegas?"

Would you like to read the letters? Do you know who applied and was hired at Vegas Village Market? Ask Ida Gaines and Brenda Williams. Do you know some of the early Black employees at the City of Las Vegas? If so, I want to interview them.

Rev. Donald Clark's collection is small but powerful. All three of the above entries were taken from the same folder contained in his collection of about 50 folders housed in two boxes.

After serving as NAACP president, Rev. Clark served on the Economic Opportunity Board and in 1984 was appointed to the Clark County Commission replacing Woodrow Wilson. We lost this community library in 2017.

City honors Cunningham

Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman proclaimed May 20, 2021 as Patricia Cunningham Day in the City of Las Vegas during an event at the Historic Westside School.

Cunningham has spent the last 25 years as a broadcaster in Las Vegas and is currently hosting "The Patricia Cunningham Show" on KCEP FM 88.1. She was inducted into the Nevada Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2015 and has served the community on several boards and commissions — including the UNLV President's Task Force on Equity and Diversity and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Multicultural Affairs Committee.





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SOUTHWEST GAS

Honoring Fathers

People in Las Vegas and across America will celebrate Father's Day this month. We honor dads who take their children further with a focus on education, a vision for the future, and enthusiasm about living a life of excellence.



Andre Gray with his daughter for father-daughter time.



Chris Gutcher is celebrating with his wife, Adrianna Gutcher, their firstborn's graduation from high school.



Earnest Monroe Jr. and his dad Earnest Monroe.



Gary "Remix" James congratulates his son Davell James at his high school graduation.



Leslie Powell unites with his daughter after four years.



Trench Keith and his son have a father & Son, bond.

Celebrating Pride!

Pride Month is celebrated each June in honor of the Stonewall Riots, a seminal moment in history that ushered in the move-

ment for LGBTQ rights. We're spotlighting three amazing people who share what the month means to them.



Andrea Dre Hollingsworth: Pride Month to me means a time to celebrate who we are — even though we should celebrate ourselves every day. Pride Month means a lot to me because we didn't always feel a reason to be proud of who we are as a community.



Johanna (King) Perez: It's a celebration of authenticity during Pride Month. It is acknowledgement of freedom to be ourselves without any discrimination. It means equality amongst all gays and straight people.



Norman Liverpool: Pride is acknowledging how far we've come while recognizing how much there is still to do. Pride Month is about living your life over the top, unapologetically.

Library District Launches Free Reading & Learning Program

Las Vegas-Clark County Library District has launched its annual, free Summer Challenge educational program with a fun, activity-filled kickoff event that started May 15 at the East Las Vegas Library. The Summer Challenge is the Library District's annual summer reading and learning program, which helps local youth beat summer boredom while having a blast and sharpening their academic skills.

"Summer is a time to make learning fun by giving kids and teens the freedom

to explore what they like to read and do," said Kelvin Watson, executive director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. "Summer Challenge gives them the motivation to follow their own interests and to prevent school skills from sliding during summer break. We are grateful to Dr. Jara and his team at CCSD for their second year of working with us to distribute Summer Challenge materials to youth throughout the valley."

"We at the Clark County School District wish all of our students a safe and

enjoyable summer break," said Dr. Jesus F. Jara, superintendent of the Clark County School District (CCSD). "A break from school, however, can lead to a summer slide if students don't stay engaged in reading and learning. This is why we are excited about the Summer Challenge, a wonderful partnership between CCSD and the public libraries in Southern Nevada, including the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. Students should have some fun this summer and read something they enjoy for 30 minutes each day."

This year the Summer Challenge's theme is "Power Up Your Robot," with activities and reading. You can register and start participating at LVCLD.



org/SummerChallenge, which includes a Spanish language portal. The program runs Saturday, May 15 through Friday, July 31.



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YOU! HAVE THE POWER

Go Get Your Bananas

By Dr. Ellen Brown

You may know the “monkey and the banana” story traveling about the Internet in various blogs and articles. It is about five monkeys, a ladder and a banana tree; the key takeaway being the innate behavior of not challenging assumptions.

A researcher explored the fact/fiction behind the story, based on a 1966 study, “What Monkeys Can Teach Us About Human Behavior.”

Apparently, monkeys love bananas and will do anything to get them. Almost. In this study the first group of monkeys were given access to the trees, but not to the bananas at the top. They would attempt to navigate to the top – but turn around when they sensed they could not. As the experiment went on through generations of monkeys, it got



to the point where monkeys used in the study had never successfully conquered the bananas. When they tried, other monkeys pulled them back until they gave up.

Generations later, this test is still going on with the same results. What can we learn from this experiment?

First of all, let's acknowledge that people are not monkeys, but humans with capabilities far beyond those of monkeys. However, let's face the truth: humans are also creatures of habit. Consider how often our decisions are based on habit versus new information, dialogue, and collaboration.

Second, how do we address new ideas? An old saying goes like this: There are three types of people – those who make

things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.

Third – and this final concept sums up the focus of “You Have the Power” – understand that creativity, knowledge and awareness are forces that propel us beyond the status quo, or the belief that there is a “they” factor keeping us from getting to the top of the banana tree.

Look around: how many opportunities are available in our communities designed to create and effect change? Often, I have not felt the urge or comfort to participate in something, knowing it is important to change; but when I get the energy and courage to act, miraculous power and knowledge appears.

The five monkeys' experiment, therefore, teaches us that as humans, we have the capability to constantly challenge ourselves, to look at things in a new light – to question things that do not always

feel right, and finally, to throw out the excuse of “we've always done it this way” to avoid branching out in new directions. If we truly want that “banana,” we must get creative and try new ways of thinking and doing.

How can we focus on building a culture that doesn't douse the torch of intelligence, creativity, ingenuity, or innovation, but instead encourages experimental problem-solving?

It starts with “I.”

I will use my intelligence to seek truth. I will use my truth to create knowledge. I will use my knowledge to activate power and I will use my power to facilitate change. Go get your bananas. You have the power.

Dr. Ellen Brown is an affiliate faculty member at Regis University, Denver. Contact Dr. Brown at ebrown.nci@gmail.com

Three Ways to Build Wealth for Your Future

By Craig Kirkland, EVP/Director of Retail Banking, Nevada State Bank

Several years ago, I was introduced to the book “Rich Dad Poor Dad” – which defines wealth as how long someone could live on passive and other sources of income, if one were to lose their primary income source. Despite being relatively comfortable, the idea of not having a paycheck was terrifying, as I'd built up little wealth and was living paycheck-to-paycheck. I read all about budgeting and investing, and set my sights on building sustainable income.

Today, it seems like there are more ways than ever to add additional income streams, however, I recommend three primary sources: wages, real estate, and business.



Wages

Your first income stream is your job. Protect this by investing in yourself through education, mentorship, and networking. If you have a 401(k) at work, contribute enough to take advantage of any amount your employer matches. If you don't have a 401(k), invest in an IRA.

Real estate

Invest in real estate. Buy in the best location you can. Hold on and build equity over time. To buy real estate, you first must build and protect your credit.

Real estate hack: If you/your spouse has a real estate license, you get the advantage of seeing properties immediately; you get the commission when you buy

or sell in the area you are licensed for; and there may be tax advantages (consult your advisor).

Small Business

Invest in yourself. Take advantage of entities like the Small Business Development Corporation and create your business plan. You can browse businesses for sale, too – check out sites like Buy-BizSell to get an idea about industry, price, and cash flow.

Develop opportunities available to you. Be intentional. Write down your goals, then post it somewhere you can easily see and be reminded, which aids in building discipline. You have to play the long game. It's never too late to get into the game and start to help build foundational and generational wealth.



Bid Opportunities and Requests for Proposals

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District buys millions of dollars worth of goods and services from local vendors each year.

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First Dose: Tuesday, June 1 | Wednesday, June 2

Second Dose: Tuesday, June 22 | Wednesday, June 23

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3800 E. Harris Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89110

Swainston Middle School

3500 W. Gilmore Ave., North Las Vegas, NV 89032

Tarkanian Middle School

5800 W. Pyle Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89141

Sawyer Middle School

5450 Redwood St., Las Vegas, NV 89118

First Dose: Tuesday, June 8 | Wednesday, June 9

Second Dose: Tuesday June 29 | Wednesday June 30

Eldorado High School

1139 N. Linn Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89110

Palo Verde High School

333 S. Pavilion Center Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89144

Spring Valley High School

3750 S. Buffalo Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89147

West Preparatory Academy

2050 S. Sapphire Stone Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106



First Dose: Thursday, June 3 | Friday, June 4

Second Dose: Thursday, June 24 | Friday, June 25

Garside Junior High School

300 S. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89107

Molasky Junior High School

7801 W. Gilmore Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129

Burkholder Middle School

355 W. Van Wagenen St., Henderson, NV 89015

Valley High School

2839 Burnham Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89169

First Dose: Thursday, June 10 | Wednesday, June 11

Second Dose: Thursday, July 1 | Friday, July 2

Rancho High School

1900 Searles Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101

Lied Middle School

5350 W. Tropical Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89130

White Middle School

1661 W. Galleria Dr., Henderson, NV 89014

Silvestri Junior High School

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'Diversity means everybody'

Entering the stately office of UNLV President Dr. Keith Whitfield feels like walking into history. Named to the post last summer, the prolific scholar and seasoned administrator is the first African-American president in the school's history — and his powerful story stands as an example of excellence and achievement for the thousands of students and educators he now leads.

Dr. Whitfield is an expert in the fields of psychology, health, and aging and has previously served as provost, senior vice president of academic affairs, and professor of psychology at Wayne State University in Michigan. An active administrator and researcher, Whitfield has authored or co-authored over 200 publications and has earned nearly \$20 million in funding from agencies including the National Health, National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the National Science Foundation. Prior to Wayne State, Whitfield served as vice provost for academic affairs at Duke University.

Whitfield now oversees a university with more than 31,000 students and 4,000 full-time employees. He has worked in higher education for more than three decades and has received numerous national awards and honors throughout his career. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from College of Santa Fe, a PH.D. in lifespan development psychology from Texas Tech University, and completed postdoctoral training in quantitative genetics from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

He granted an exclusive interview to Black Image, which he enjoys reading each month because "it shows positive images and it points people towards success."

As the new UNLV President, did you identify what you wanted to bring to the administrative table before accepting the position?

When I was thinking about applying



UNLV President Dr. Keith Whitfield

for the job, I initially decided against it because ... I thought I couldn't leave my position at Wayne State. I really loved what I was doing. But as I took another look and saw that UNLV is the second most diverse university in the country — and that students were improving — it struck my interest. I said to myself, "You know something, UNLV needs a student success champion as a president." Past presidents have all been different and I only have respect for their tenures. But my big thing is about student success.

When you started as President of UNLV last year you immediately met with students, sororities and fraternities. Did the students find this odd and something that they hadn't experienced before with other presidents?

Yes I think they did. I love to interact with all — diversity means everybody. It had not been the tradition before. I had to have my schedule adjusted so that I am able to walk around the campus and listen to people. I have meetings in the

student union at our Starbucks and you have to stay grounded.

Tell me about a letter you received that someone wrote to you and asked you if you believe you got the UNLV president position because you are Black and on the heels of George Floyd's murder?

Yes, I just sat back to reflect: "I am going to be honest with myself, Did that have a factor in my selection?" It could, but I remember the questions that were asked of me when I was being interviewed for the job and how they were asked. If you are a Black person you don't have to be a psychologist to figure it out. They asked me hard questions and they did ask me about diversity — but didn't flinch when they asked about it. I really feel like they responded to what I had to say — which is who I am. I am a student-centered president who thinks of myself as a family member. One of the things that makes me slightly different is that I'm still a researcher. I am heavy into African-American families and lon-

gevity. Everything I do connects me with students and families for everyone.

What is the demographic breakdown of the students at UNLV?

There are 31,000 students and ... We do most of our diversity numbers with the undergraduate population. It's about 33 percent Hispanic and 14 to 15 percent African American. Total is 65 percent non-white.

What are the biggest challenges for African-Americans who might want to attend UNLV?

I am solution oriented. For example, College of Southern Nevada President Dr. Federico Zaragoza is a very close buddy of mine because I am a big fan of his and he is an outstanding guy. Also, I know that there are going to be students that won't hit the UNLV GPA requirement. We are a top tier University. You want to know that the students are well prepared — because you don't want to set them up for failure. So that there are lots of routes for attending UNLV. Some of the hurdles can be required classes, timing, and how they do with their financial aid.

When do you anticipate for the university to be open and the students will be back on campus?

The doors at UNLV are already open. Twenty percent of the students are in class on campus and 80 percent of the classes are virtual. For the fall of 2021 it is a goal to go back to 80 percent opened with classes on campus — that's if nothing else happens.

Do you have a venture you hope to complete that will be part of your UNLV legacy?

continued on page 22 >

My thing is that it's not just one thing. It's a dozen things. The general pillars are we are going to work on economic development. We know that the state has to be diversified economically. And we can be a big help with that because many companies come in because they know that a workforce is coming out of UNLV. The better we produce people — guess what? We then help the city and the state to be able to do what's needed. The second piece is our Health Center. I don't like to hear people say, "McCarran Airport is the best waiting room for healthcare." We have an Academic Health Center that is outstanding and it has shown it in this time of COVID-19. I am so proud that over 100,000 vaccinations have been done. This is part of the solution and we are going to get students success rate up from the current 44 percent to at least 60 percent success. It's the culture that we believe in students — and UNLV is ready for it. We really do care about our students. It doesn't always work out perfectly, but it can work out better and we can work towards that student success and economic development. We will be more community facing and we are working on something really for the school system here in the city. Actually, we have two things for the school system — but one is producing more teachers.

So, it's a feeding process so if you are a student in the school system locally it feeds right into bringing more students to the University system?

Yes, you got it! And at the same time try to address social justice and diversity. That is a goal strived for but never arriving. I worry about so many of our young people. They don't know the history that you have lived. They use social media and believe they figured it all out and all the problems. Oh my — we have to educate them because they don't know what's going on. One reality is that now people are understanding that diversity means everybody. Some of my colleagues have said to me, "If we mean 'everybody,' we have to listen to everybody." I said, "You are exactly right and we will figure it out."

Touro Nevada campus community comes together to 'Walk for Justice'



The Touro University Nevada community peacefully marched through Downtown Henderson during the "Walk for Justice" on June 19. The Walk for Justice was held on Juneteenth, the anniversary commemorating the emancipation of the last remaining slaves of the Confederacy. Touro University Nevada CEO & Senior Provost Shelley Berkley, and Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford, delivered opening remarks.

Wearing Juneteenth t-shirts, more than 100 members of the Touro Nevada community made the half-mile walk to City Hall to show their commitment to social justice. Participants held up signs throughout the walk, including "Black Lives Matter" and "Med Students for Black Lives." Once the group reached City Hall, Henderson Mayor Debra

March, Police Chief Thedrick Andres, and second-year medical student Paulina Awuah thanked the participants for joining in the Walk for Justice.

"Everyone doesn't have to do everything, but we can all do something to address these issues," Awuah said.

Paul Gentle II, a 2019 graduate of the Masters of Science in Medical Health Sciences Program (MHS) and incoming first-year student in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, said the Walk for Justice was a great experience and an important event for Touro to hold.

"Being an African-American man, Juneteenth holds a lot of significance to me," he said. "I'm happy to see that across the world, people are realizing just how much social injustices are affecting our communities. I really appre-

ciate that Touro and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) put this event together."

Tava McGinty-Jimenez, Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Office of Admissions, discussed the importance of the campus community coming together on Juneteenth.

"In true Touro fashion, we brought several groups of people together; different races, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds, to celebrate a day that isn't just Black history, but American history," she said. "Today, we took the time to engage with each other and get educated from our community leaders while still keeping ourselves safe and healthy during COVID-19. It was an amazing experience."



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The SNWA is a not-for-profit water agency.

Rebates for Water Smart Landscapes: How to earn cash by conserving water

By Damon Hodge, SNWA



For more than 20 years, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has implemented programs to support the community's water conservation efforts. Chief among these initiatives is the hugely popular and successful Water Smart Landscapes Rebate program. Here, SNWA Conservation Manager Doug Bennett explains how you can participate in the program to save water, money and time by giving your yard a dynamic new look.

What is WSL and how does it work?

While many people know our Water Smart Landscapes Program as the "cash for grass" program, it's important to note we're replacing lawns with other landscape options, not just snuffing them out. We provide qualifying property owners a rebate of up to \$3 for each square foot of water-guzzling grass they convert to water-efficient landscaping. For a typical homeowner project of 900 square feet, the SNWA pays \$2,700. Customers need to apply before starting. I like to say

all you need to do is check in, dig in and cash in, but a visit to [snwa.com](#) will give you full details.

What are the benefits of WSL?

Landscaping is the single largest consumer of Southern Nevada's water resources — and lawn grass uses four times as much water as other options. Much of the grass we target is purely ornamental, meaning the only time anyone sets foot on it is when they're pushing a lawn mower. If it's eye-appeal you're going for, there are hundreds of stunning plants that can make your landscape more dynamic and water-thrifty. And, while water conservation is our primary goal, water smart landscaping typically requires less maintenance and reduces your property's water bill. Typical residential projects reduce yearly water bills by about \$200 at current rates.

Why is a program like WSL so important

for the community at large?

Water is our most vital resource. We draw 90 percent of our water from the Colorado River at Lake Mead, but the persistent Colorado River drought threatens to take a bite out of our supply. Now consider that we as a community use about 60 percent of our precious supply on our landscapes and too much



of that on decorative lawns. Unlike the water used in your home, landscape water can't be recycled; it gets used once and it's gone. Water is the very fuel that drives the region's economy and quality

of life — and we all have a responsibility to use it appropriately.

The SNWA launched the WSL program in 2000. What has it accomplished since then?

A lot. Over the past two decades, property owners have taken advantage of our rebate program to convert almost 200 million square feet of grass. To put that in perspective, it's enough to wrap an 18-inch-wide roll of sod completely around Earth, and then some. More importantly, all these conversions save our community more than 11 billion gallons of water every year. No wonder other cities and metropolitan areas around the country have adopted similar programs to conserve water.

For more information about the Water Smart Landscapes Program, including landscape conversion tips, and planning resources, visit [snwa.com](#) or call (702) 258-SAVE (7283).

Becoming my ancestors' wildest dream

By Avery Dante Ford MHS, Georgetown University School of Medicine

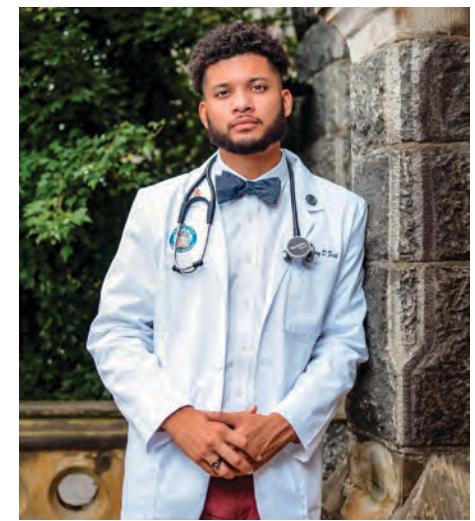
As a non-traditional first-generation physician in the making, it is a beautiful burden to pursue medicine and pave the way for the next. I have frequently experienced life as a token Black male in academia, which has given me a special calling to represent the same community I'm determined to serve. As the only Black male on my class roster of 200+ in undergrad, the only one in my master's program, and one of four Black men in my medical cohort — essentially repre-

senting the statistical presence of African Americans in medicine — this path is always about more than myself.

As I navigate this profession, I'm reminded that I am my ancestors' wildest dream. Notwithstanding the tumultuous history of the United States — inclusive of Georgetown selling 272 slaves to fund itself — just the idea of me practicing medicine was once outright audacious. Because of their conscious uprising, my potential is unshackled, too. And to my

parents, who from their early twenties provided me with sustenance and confidence, I am the product of further selflessness and sacrifice.

Applying both history and experience, I am a living testimonial to the capacity we have to overcome. I'm an avid believer that pitfalls cannot overwhelm purpose — and the fact that there is no obstacle that can derail your persistence. That being said, "Who gon' stop me, huh?"





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UNLV has created one of the most affirmative and dynamic academic environments in the country, in part demonstrated by our ranking as the nation's second most diverse university. We celebrate the diversity of our students, faculty, and staff. We embrace core values of equity and inclusion, listening to others with an open mind and supporting each other in our differences. Together with you, we are making a difference.

To learn more, visit unlv.edu

UNLV

Home At Last ‘is the real deal’

There are so many benefits to being a resident of Nevada, and affordable home ownership is among the most meaningful perks. The Nevada Rural Housing Authority’s (NRHA) Home At Last³ program offers up to \$25,000 in down payment assistance to those who qualify and are interested in buying a home in rural areas of the state — and you may be pleasantly surprised by what areas of Clark County are included. Black Image Magazine sat down with Katie Coleman, who serves as communications director for NRHA, for an engaging conversation to usher in National Homeownership Month.

Why was Home At Last originally designed and what is its purpose?

The Home At Last Program started in 2006 and really came from a desire to offer rural Nevadans a way to get into homes of their own. Many Nevadans can pay their rent and bills, but don’t have the savings for a down payment. We wanted to help people get over that down payment barrier and assist them into a home of their choice. Many people are ready for a mortgage and to start building that equity, and Home At Last assistance can open that door.

What should the community know about Home At Last?

Up to \$25,000 toward down payment assistance might sound too good to be true — but it is the real deal. The other thing that is really important to know is that the down payment assistance comes in the form of a second mortgage that has no interest, no payments, and is fully forgiven after being in the home for three years. Our homebuyers do have to apply and qualify for a mortgage, so we advocate for good credit habits and steady incomes. We are a reliable, local governmental agency and a knowledgeable source that helps you connect with a trusted lender partner. We work with a network of Home At Last approved lenders who know our program inside and out. Home At Last is here so that homebuyers are not alone in the process and have access to assistance options.



Is there credit forgiveness for people who may want to apply but had their credit or employment adversely affected by the pandemic?

Home At Last has great information available to get people down the path to homeownership, and we get a lot of questions about credit as it pertains to qualifying. Our program requires a 640 FICO score and incomes under \$135,000. We do have quite a few loan options — and for those who are working on their credit, we have a lot of good resources that include recommended credit counseling agencies. Also, it is good to sit down with a potential lender and discuss your credit standing. Lenders can evaluate your current credit situation and discuss what you can do to get purchase ready — our lenders share our goal of helping buyers achieve their dreams of affordable homeownership. We also offer homebuyer education (which is required to participate in the program) called Home At Last University (HAL U for short!). HAL U gets into the nitty-gritty of topics like credit and what you need to understand about how to build and maintain it.

Why is Home At Last such an opportunity for people who want to buy a home?

Many people are unaware that some areas in our own Clark County backyard qualify as rural in Nevada. Rural areas for our program are defined as having populations under 150,000, which means the program is inclusive of areas such as Enterprise, Mountain’s Edge, Southern Highlands, Whitney, Winchester, and Summerlin South — in addition to the 15 other rural counties in Nevada, of course. If a buyer or their realtor have a specific property in mind, they can visit HALMap.org to determine if it is indeed

eligible!

Is there more land that is allotted around homes purchased in rural Nevada? Some people might be interested in growing their own fruits and vegetables in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Yes, space is a desirable element of living in rural Nevada! We’re reading about nationwide trends, with people wanting to live in areas that offer a bit more space between their neighbors. Certainly, many parts of rural Nevada have that kind of space — and for some, there’s a lot of appeal to looking up and seeing the stars instead of city lights.

Is Home At Last open to people who want to buy investment homes in rural Nevada?

The Home At Last program requires that the home is your primary residence.

How is the diversity in rural areas?

Let’s take a look at the demographic information our Home At Last University enrollees provide us. Since we launched the homebuyer education online tool in summer 2019, we’ve enrolled a little over 9,000 students — 58 percent white and Hispanic, 13 percent African American/Black, four percent Asian and two percent Pacific Islander.

What is the cost of the average home in rural Nevada?

Median home prices vary across the areas we serve. For example, the current median home price in Las Vegas is reported as \$395,000 and Pahrump as \$200,000. The Reno/Sparks area reported median home price is \$502,000 while nearby Fernley is \$352,000 and Fallon is \$275,000. The majority of the families we’ve served have purchased existing homes (90 percent in 2020) but buyers can use our program for new homes, as well (10 percent of those we assisted in 2020 purchased new homes). Our homebuyer education course at HAL U online includes a “chapter” about the home shopping process and reviews topics like how to make a home “wish list,” ensuring you’re taking into account not only price but right-fit features, community amenities, etc.

I hear you have a program that puts money back in the homebuyer’s pocket?

Yes! It’s called a Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC). The MCC program provides eligible first-time buyers and qualified veterans* with an annual federal income tax credit equal to 30% of the mortgage interest paid (up to an annual maximum of \$2,000) — every year for the life of the loan. This is a great benefit because the credit can be considered additional qualifying income, which can help someone afford more home and lower their debt-to-income ratio. That \$2,000 equates to \$166.67 each month back in the pockets of our homebuyers! And it’s often paired with Home At Last Down Payment Assistance, providing one more way to help make affordable homeownership a reality for those we serve.

How can people learn more about Home At Last and all these wonderful opportunities to help them buy a home?

They can email me at Kcoleman@nvrural.org and visit our website at: HomeAtLastNV.org

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines a veteran as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.” NRHA does not offer this information as tax advice, the figures shown are estimates only. All MCC holders should consult their own tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service for guidance regarding exact amount of tax savings. *Home At Last participating lenders are responsible to follow all program guidelines and reserve loans at the rates published at eHousingPlus. Not all applicants will qualify. Home At Last, a program of the Nevada Rural Housing Authority does not originate mortgage loans. Eligibility for the program is determined by licensed lenders approved to offer the Home At Last program. Rates shown are for illustrative purposes only. This is not an offer to lend money or solicit a mortgage application.



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Scholarship Requirements

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