

Las Vegas

Black Image

AUGUST 2021

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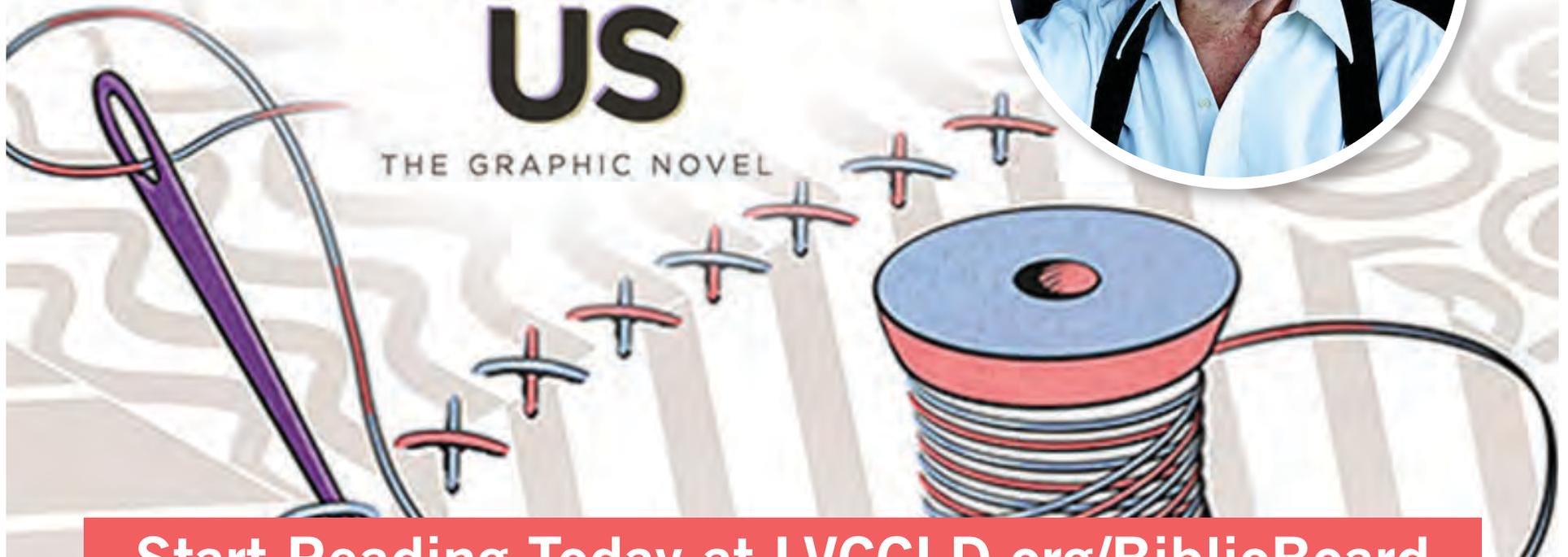
Jennifer Hudson captivates as the Queen of Soul

Inside |

The meaning of 'R-E-S-P-E-C-T' • Terry Wayne Smith grabs the spotlight
Five ways to plot your financial future

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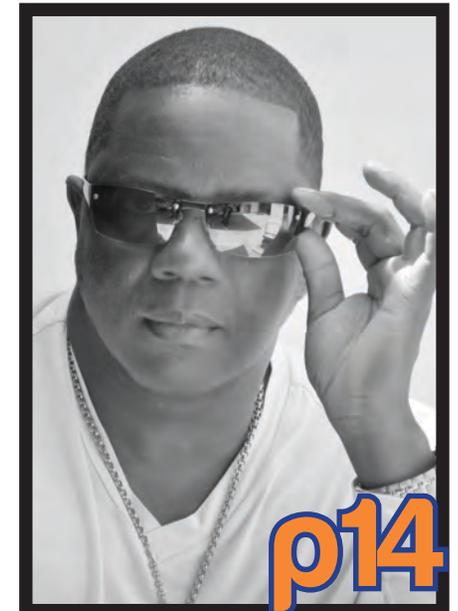
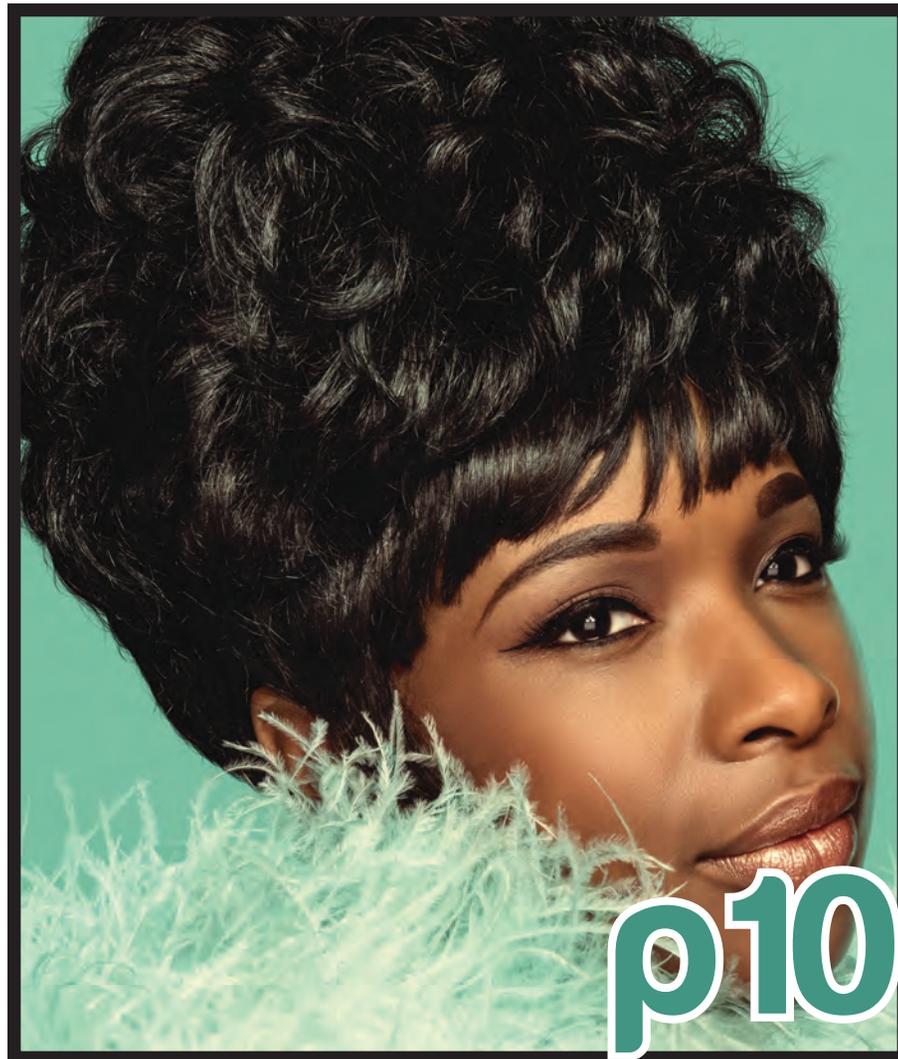
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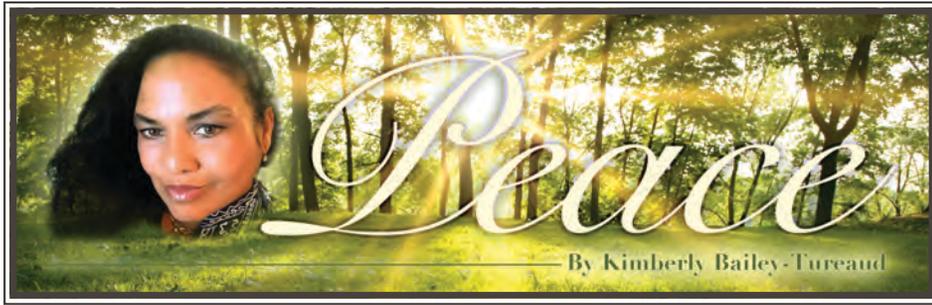
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what's inside:





Queendom

We can learn so much from those who have come before us: style, grace, character, activism, wisdom, and strength shown through silent tears.

We should wear our crowns and walk with pride as everyday conscious acts. As we face adversity, our ancestral rods hold our backs upright as we fearlessly face down the storms on a journey that is not to be avoided. We face them like we face ourselves in a mirror. Examine all the possibilities that reveal the beauty of life.

There is fire in your solitude. An opportunity to stem the flow of expectation. Strengthen the muscles of the heart to beat or to let go when required. Queen, you know it — and more importantly, you feel it. Just like the ocean

As we face adversity, our ancestral rods hold our backs upright as we fearlessly face down the storms on a journey that is not to be avoided.

knows its water creates needed waves to shape the earth—you know how to balance dark risings.

The world will pivot in your presence, making way for the sun to shine in your direction. The new day slides into your anxiety, allowing for a second chance. A new day awaits your calling and abides by your command.

The power you possess is not arrogant or intrusive. It's just there like a ray of light seen by those who are woke. Stepping with unapologetic intention toward the unknown, eager to raise the curtains of faith.

Peace is there waiting to be actualized as bowed heads honor your Queendom.

The Circus Is Closed. Now, Clowns Be Gone

By Louie Overstreet

In four years, we allowed American democracy to become a circus act that now rivals the Wallendas in terms of peril.

It all started when the Trump Troupe took up D.C. residency in January 2017. It did not take them long to hire a bunch of Republican clowns they could find to work under the Big Top.

The Trump Troupe countered the American idea of striving to form a perfect union. It was no longer to be valued — and was replaced with the concept of quid pro quo. With all the “you scratch my back, I will scratch yours” that went on, one could reasonably conclude the place was one giant flea circus.

I have long suspected Lady Justice was not blind, given the generally known fact that in America you receive the justice you can afford. The Trump Troupe proved Ms. Justice was able to clearly distinguish between the rich and the poor.

Paraphrasing Bat Masterson — yes that Bat Masterson — the rich receive



their ice in the summer and the poor continue to receive theirs in the winter, but even more so, given the efforts that were devoted to oppressing the poor.

If the consequences were not so dire, it would be laughable that these incompetent rich clowns became affirmative action hires — whose wealth was acquired by means of inheritance or

in fields of endeavor unrelated to the governmental agencies they were appointed to in order to run American democracy into the ground.

Sadly, the closing of the Big Top in November 2020 was immediately replaced by the Big Lie that the circus was not voted out of office. Shortly thereafter on January 6, a troupe of lay clowns — who had been buying tickets to the circus for the last four years — went to D.C. in droves and committed an act of sedition.

When it comes to the Trump Troupe, I sure hope Vern Vinge was right, when he noted, “So even in Hell, there are clowns.”

If the consequences were not so dire, it would be laughable that these incompetent rich clowns became affirmative action hires

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Honoring the royalty within

It is our honor to present the August 2021 edition of Las Vegas Black Image. Above all, we thank God – and then, our extraordinary team: graphic designer, editor, contributing writers and most of all you, the loyal reader.

This issue celebrates the royalty in all of us: starting with the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, who is portrayed by Jennifer Hudson in a forthcoming biopic. We honor the queen in all women striving to live their best lives – and ask a few to break down what the word “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” means to them.

Las Vegas is known throughout the world as an entertainment capital, and local artists like I.C. Jonez and Terry Wayne Smith are the spiritual lifeblood of the industry. We explore how they’re taking their musical talents to the next level of excellence, and beating the odds to perform on local, national and international platforms.

Speaking of local platforms: this month’s Community Speaks feature covers Las Vegas residents’ view of the ongoing threat of COVID and the urgency of continuing to take protective measures. And our Photos of the Month showcase those wonderful Black lifestyle images of our community residents, and we thank everyone who is spotlighted.

Finally, it was an honor for our inspiration, Ms. Oprah Winfrey, to spotlight our mother and mother-in-law, Anna Bailey, in a recent edition of Oprah Daily. As she celebrates another journey around the sun this month, please join us in wishing her a happy birthday – and thanking her for contributing to our great city of Las Vegas throughout the years.

Thank you again for your readership and support! Email your thoughts and story suggestions to cdalasegas@gmail.com.



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS | I.C. JONEZ

‘We have all of them covered with God’

I.C. Jonez isn’t your typical rapper. The 37-year old married father of four happens to be the top Christian hip-hop artist in Nevada, and he’s branching out beyond the mic: operating his own record label and clothing company, hosting a radio show, and managing other up-and-coming artists. He wants to spread that entrepreneurial spirit to young people, who he is determined to help keep “off the streets.”

He sat down with Las Vegas Black Image for an exclusive interview on all the moves he’s making.

It must be exciting to see all your dreams come to life?

Yes, I’ve come a long way. Many people ask me how I explain all that I do. I explain that I am a seasoned Christian

continued on page 11>>



I.C. Jonez

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How do you feel about Las Vegas returning to a mask mandate?



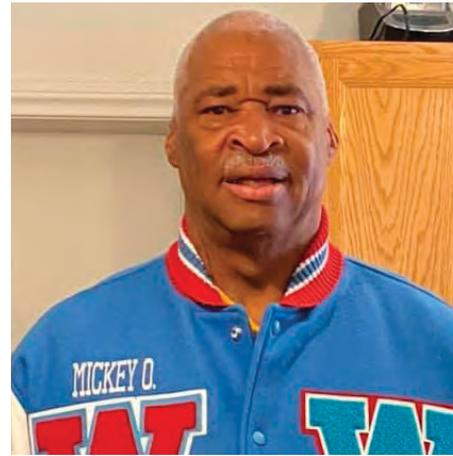
Katina Wilson

In my opinion, no one should have ever stopped wearing masks. The CDC has determined the vaccine is not a cure. It was designed to prevent severe and deadly symptoms in case of contraction. There have been massive reports of the vaccinated and survivors of the COVID virus becoming re-infected.



Tamara Braxton Watson

I feel good about us having to take a step to prevent sickness and death — yet exhausted and anxiety-filled that the need to do so has hit us hard again.



Rickey Ormond

I don't think there should be a mandate to wear masks outside, but I think we should wear masks indoors. Especially in churches.



Dewayne Pierce

I never stopped wearing my mask. I always wear two masks.



Paul Mark Maclin

I've had three healthy friends who were in their 40s die in three days of COVID. Put a mask ON!



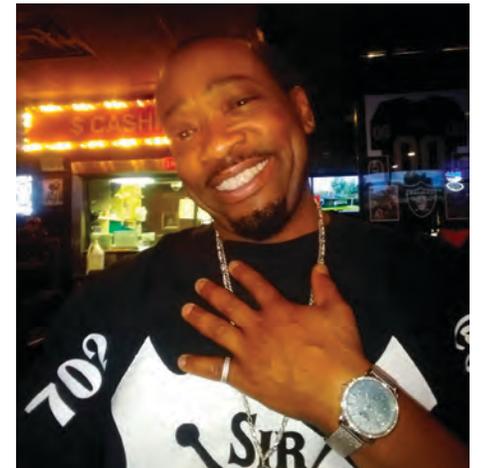
Leslie Hamm

We need to continue wearing the masks with these high numbers of COVID cases in Las Vegas. I never took my mask off. I am double vaccinated as well. I hate to see a mandate for masks possibly happen, but we are leaning toward another shutdown.



Lorraine Mcdowell

Requiring masks in public will make it easier for businesses to enforce and make us more comfortable.



Andrew Thomas

If it helps keep the COVID cases down, then that's what's up!



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SOUTHWEST GAS

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH
 Las Vegas
Black Image



50 Cent recently paid a visit to Las Vegas and poses with realtor Trachale Cade



The Bullocks family enjoys the Aviators Baseball game.



Cassandra Lewis congratulates her MVP at the annual CJ Watson Quiet Storm Foundation Hoops for Hope Basketball clinic.



Kym Locklear Wilson and her husband celebrate their anniversary.



Michael Elliott and legendary rap artist Yo-Yo



Kasina Boone and staff from the Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center.



Robert Taylor (aka Twix) being interviewed by CNN



Yulunda Gladney



Local NAACP holds community meeting with local law enforcement leaders at the College of Southern Nevada.



Original Moulin Rouge dancer Anna Bailey takes part in a special tribute for Clark County Library District with Broadway in the Hood producers.



Serena Henry recently performed with Pop Strings Orchestra at Allegiant Stadium

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Farmers Markets are a great way to get locally and regionally grown produce and other fresh food, and there is one near you! Many Southern Nevada Farmers Markets accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – formerly known as Food Stamps – making it simple and affordable to bring healthy nutritious food home.

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Casting Her Spell

Jennifer Hudson mesmerizes in a new biopic about the legendary Queen of Soul.



Her songs are firmly ensconced in the canon of American music, and her remarkable voice and larger-than-life personality are forever woven into the fabric of our popular culture. So ever since it was announced that Hollywood was bringing the story of Aretha Franklin to the silver screen, the wait has felt interminable.

The anticipation heightened following the Queen of Soul's passing in 2018. Then, a resurgent movement for racial justice reinforced Franklin's cultural significance — by recalling her role in creating an indispensable soundtrack for the spirit of Black resilience and resistance at the center of the civil rights movement.

Jennifer Hudson, who stars in “Respect,” is a natu-

ral fit for the role of a child prodigy and extraordinary woman whose journey to superstardom began and ended in the church. And though Franklin handpicked the Academy Award winner and “American Idol” alum for the part — which delves into the little-known story of how Franklin found herself — she had to earn it.

“After ‘American Idol,’ Aretha Franklin was doing a show in Maryville, Indiana and I wanted to open for her,” Hudson recalled. “Everyone knows she did not allow singers to open for her, instead starting her shows with a comedian. And, then, she approved me to open for her. So, that was a dream as are many moments I shared with her. I find especially now, she has been a huge guide for the structure and spirit of my career.”

It turns out that the opportunity put Hudson on a path to her destiny.

“I had a dream for myself after ‘Dreamgirls’ — coming off something as big as that? And I said the only thing that could top that would be to play Aretha Franklin,” she said. “And I don’t know if she heard me or if she had that same thing in mind. But, right after I won my Oscar for ‘Dreamgirls,’ Ms. Franklin wanted to meet me ... in New York. Over 15 years ago. That’s how long we talked about this. We sat down, and we talked about me playing her. And she told me I was very shy, asking me, ‘Are you shy or something?’ I remember telling her, ‘Well, I am sitting here talking to Ms. Aretha Franklin.’”



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

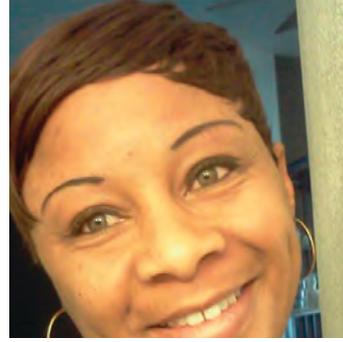
Honoring our Black queens — and their definitions of the word and ideas on how it can be shown.



Plus Love
Give others honesty.



Tracy Pieper
Show respect with loyalty and integrity.



Felecia Graines
It is respectful to not be judgmental.



Deidra Green
You can show respect by giving others compliments.



Debra Storey
Respect is shown when you applaud people who are in their winning season, and lift them up when they're feeling down.



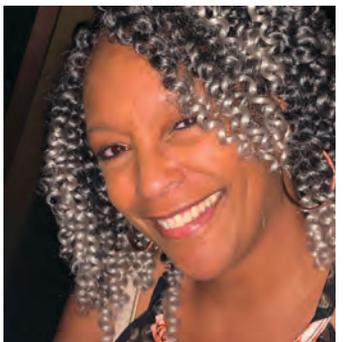
Michelle Manning
Respect others with love.



Nicole Williams
We can all show respect by accepting a person for who they are with no judgment.



Denice Fisher Lopez
You can feel when someone is being respectful when they show genuine warmth for someone.



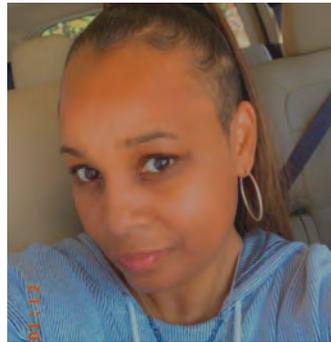
Dana Whitaker
Respect is accepting who someone is — flaws and all.



Zanira Al Amin
Respect is being able to honor other's beliefs, actions, and opinions — even if you don't agree with them. #eachone-teachone.



Lanise Franklin
Respect should be automatic for anyone who truly appreciates what it is.



Shelli Harris
I define respect as an act of accepting me as I am — with all my faults, flaws, and imperfections. In the same vein, be able to offer constructive criticism to help someone be a better person.



Jackee Cahee
It is important to show respect through listening and communication.

<< continued from p5



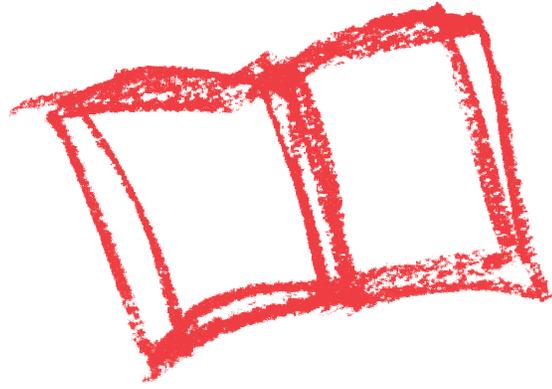
rapper who has a catalog of eight albums. I have two internet radio shows called "Hot Beats with I.C. JoneZ" and "Kicking It with JoneZ and Skinny" on Room Service Internet Radio. I also manage a record label called GMB the Movement — so I have my own record label, and I have my own clothing line.

Is everyone on your record label doing Christian rap or gangster rap?

My record label features hip-hop artists. I only do Christian rap, but the artists on my label are younger than me and produce various kinds of rap music. I keep them in the recording studio being creative, performing at shows and keeping them off the streets. My artists are telling their life stories through their music. They have been through some crazy stuff growing up in West Las Vegas. I can't force them to change their lives — but I am encouraged because they are all believers and one of the artists has a mother who is a minister. We have all of them covered with God.

What is the biggest misconception when people say, "Oh, you are a rapper?"

There are a lot of misconceptions, but the biggest is that they don't think Christians should rap. They don't want hip-hop in their churches. That's why I went to the streets — where I received more love for my music and doing Christian rap.



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'I put God and family first and wouldn't change a thing'

The Terry Wayne Project has been performing music all over the country for nine years. The leader of the band is Terry Wayne Smith, who spent his teenage and young adult years in Las Vegas. His family's connection to the music industry runs deep: superstar recording artist Ne-Yo is Smith's nephew. Las Vegas Black Image Magazine caught up with him on the eve of his newest release, "4Ever!"

How long have you been making music in the industry?

I have been in the music business for nine years, but I have been singing since I was five years of age. I used to get a quarter from the church pastor every time I sang in church. So I would sing my heart out and make a dollar for every performance in church.

Where are you originally from?

My whole family is originally from Arkansas and we followed my brother Jerry out to Vegas in 1978 because he was in the military. When I started performing and joined a band in Hollywood, I traveled all over the country and eventually as a solo artist on cruise ships. I remember



Terry Wayne Smith

performing at City View Park with George Lester.

What are your fondest memories of your nephew, Ne-Yo?

I remember buying him his first keyboard. I have written him some songs back in the day, and everyone in our family is very musically inclined. My mother sang in the church and my father played the guitar. My mother also worked with the Jackson 5.

Tell us about your new musical release, "4Ever."

I wrote this song "4Ever" for my wife, who initially started crying when she heard it. It's doing really well on over 179 stations on all of the internet platforms. My other song, "Sweet Thang," is number 4 on ReverbNation. You can go to all the musical internet platforms and YouTube to hear the songs.

How has COVID affected your career?

It has affected everyone, but recently I performed in Laughlin for 300 people. It was a great time and bookings are picking up. I put God and family first and wouldn't change a thing.

Be Aspirational: Five Ways to Achieve Your Goals

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

When it comes to your finances, be aspirational, and set ambitious goals.

1. Write It Down, Break It Down

Write your goals down, then break each into smaller pieces, and set a timeline. If you want \$1,000 in your emergency fund, it could look like: "\$1,000 emergency fund in six months." Then, state how you will achieve it: "I'll save \$166 a month by reducing expenses or saving \$40 weekly."

2. Soar With Eagles, Not Pigeons
Look at people who have achieved what



you want. Find out what steps they took, then model their behaviors. Also, you may have to identify those who may be clouding your vision, giving you negative feedback, and limiting your potential. Choose friends and associates wisely, and spend time with people who build you up, not drag you down. There's a saying that has always stuck with me, "You cannot soar with the eagles if you are hanging with the pigeons."

3. Use Financial Education Resources

Education has been referred to as the great equalizer. I'm a big proponent of

investing in yourself through education. However, I'd argue that technology and information are increasingly the great equalizers. A wealth of resources are available online, from budgeting to starting a business. For instance, visit the FDIC's website and click on "Money Smart" to access online coursework, or visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and find resources under "Consumer Education."

4. Practice Humility

It's important to be humble and listen to others. Humility signals that you don't think you know everything, and you're interested in what others say and their point of view.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. If someone doesn't follow through or isn't amenable to assisting you, find someone else. When you listen and consider feedback, you tend to make better decisions with better outcomes.

5. Pay It Forward

Be humble and work to remain that way throughout your life. I believe the higher someone goes in their career and/or accomplishments, the more humble they should be. You should also mentor others — when you impart knowledge, you strengthen your knowledge base and leadership capabilities. You pass on something, but you gain many benefits.

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Breastfeeding and COVID

By Dr. Annette Mayes OB/GYN

The month of August is National Breastfeeding Awareness Month. Many women know that breast milk provides their babies with protection against many illnesses, but there are still many questions around breastfeeding during the COVID pandemic. Though breastfeeding is ultimately a personal decision, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) all support giving mother's breast milk to their babies even if they are infected with COVID-19.



According to recent reports, COVID-19 has not been detected in breast milk. Similarly, other respiratory viruses have not been transmitted in breast milk. For example, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV) virus that is a similar virus has not been detected in breast milk.

The ABM suggests if a mother who is confirmed to have COVID-19 or has symptoms and is under investigation, she should isolate from others, including from her infant to reduce the risk for transmission. The ABM recommends a breastfeeding mother can either: provide an ongoing supply of breast milk by expressing milk using a breast pump, or allow mother/baby contact for breastfeeding sessions with precautions.

Based on CDC recommendations, if a mother with COVID-19 gives birth in the hospital, the baby may be temporarily separated from the mother to reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19 to the newborn. During this time of separation, providing the baby with expressed breast milk is recommended.

There are several safety tips for breastfeeding mothers who have COVID-19 or symptoms:

- Avoid people who are sick
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, immediately throw away any tissues used, and wash hands thoroughly
- Wear a mask for any contact, including while breastfeeding the baby
- Wash hands well for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitizer

that contains 60% to 95% alcohol before and after feedings (both feeding at the breast and expressing milk). Wash hands well when visibly soiled

- Clean and disinfect countertop, outside of pump and pump kit as described above
- If a mother has coughed or sneezed onto her uncovered chest or breast, cleanse the skin that may come into contact with the baby or pump
- Clean and disinfect other surfaces that the child may touch

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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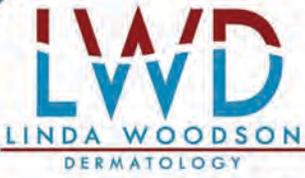
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O Yeah!

Oprah Winfrey's daily online publication honors Las Vegas icon Anna Bailey.

Oprah Daily recently featured long-time local icon Anna Bailey in its "Lift Every Voice" feature, which highlighted extraordinary African-American seniors across the country. Journalism majors at Historically Black Colleges and Universities were given the opportunity to profile the selected seniors, working alongside up-and-coming Black photographers.

According to Oprah Winfrey, "When we were first talking about doing this feature ... I couldn't help but think about my mentor and sister friend Dr. Maya Angelou. We often talked about how important it is to know where we come from so we can continue to build to where we need to go. This feature tells stories of our oldest generation of Black Americans. We celebrate our elders' life experiences and ... stories that would have otherwise slipped into the white noise of history."

Anna Bailey arrived in Las Vegas in 1955, one of the original dancers for the historic Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino, America's first integrated establishment of its kind. Originally from Brooklyn,

New York, Bailey also performed as a dancer in the Apollo Theatre and many other historic venues that opened doors for Black entertainers.

Bailey is also the mother of Las Vegas Black Image publisher Kimberly Bailey Tureaud, and will celebrate her 95th birthday in August. Anna and her husband, the late William H. Bob Bailey, planted legendary roots in Las Vegas as business owners, civil right leaders and economic development pioneers contributing to the cultural diversity we all enjoy today.

Gratitude overwhelmed Bailey as she recounts the recognition by Oprah Daily.

"I was just thrilled that Oprah and her organization knew my name," she said. "And to call me and want an interview with me was a dream come true. I have always been in awe of Oprah and her success. I was just so excited, and it was an experience I never had before. The fact that she created space to hear from some of the elder citizens shows you what kind of woman she is. It was just a pleasure and something I will never forget."



Anna Bailey

HISTORIC BLACK VEGAS

The story of Lubertha Johnson

By Claytee D. White

In 1943 Lubertha Johnson migrated to Las Vegas to assume a position as the Recreational Director of Carver Park, a WWII housing complex for Black workers at Basic Magnesium Incorporated (BMI). Paul R. Williams, the "architect to the stars," designed the units and wanted something above average for his fellow African-American workers. BMI employed Blacks from small towns in the South like Fordyce, Arkansas, Tallulah, Louisiana, and hamlets in Mississippi. Lubertha Johnson helped



to smooth the transition and added a bit of joy and fun since the surrounding area was undeveloped. Today that area is the City of Henderson. Unfortunately, Carver Park has since been demolished.

As the Recreational Director, Johnson also intervened in local activism. The space she programmed was also for meetings — so she started the Tenant Council at Carver Park, a group that organized discussion sessions around various topics, especially racial discrimination at the plant. Her primary duties



Lubertha Johnson

allowed her to lead the recreation agenda, start a nursery school, and later add a preschool.

When the war ended, Johnson left Carver Park and purchased property in Paradise Valley, the unincorporated area near today's McCarran Airport. At that time, Blacks lived in downtown Las Vegas, just across the tracks from the hub of the business corridor. Johnson's home in Paradise Valley proved to be a place that allowed African-Americans a refuge for cookouts, holiday gatherings, and organizational meetings. Simultaneously,

continued on page 20 >>

Cooking with Gas: Helping Restaurant Owners Save Energy and Money

Small business owners in Las Vegas are working hard to get back to pre-pandemic levels when it comes to attracting customers and operating a profitable business. Affordable, reliable and clean, natural gas is helping many small businesses in our community make financial ends meet — while providing warmth, hot water and even outdoor fireplaces. Restaurant owners in particular rely on natural gas for its precise temperature control, convenience and reliability, while keeping their energy costs down and boosting the bottom line.

Cooking with gas offers chefs the ability to prepare multiple items quickly, a vital component to a successful restaurant. Less time spent waiting for pots, pans and oil to heat to temperature provides a faster completion of orders, and in turn, happier customers.

Southwest Gas met with the owner of

Pandora's Burgers, which offers popular American fare like burgers, fries, wings, and soul food, to find out why they prefer using natural gas in their kitchen.

"The thing I like about natural gas is that you can just turn it on and it's there, which saves a lot of time and helps to get our customers their perfectly cooked food faster," says Pandora Beaman, owner of Pandora's Burgers. "I'm able to control the temperature, and because I've been using natural gas for so long, I can tell if our cooks have the fryer too high or too low, just by the sound."

Natural gas is the most economical choice for energy for businesses and homes alike, with a 91% efficiency rating. It also boasts one of the most long-standing and environmentally responsible delivery systems in the nation.

To learn more about the benefits of using natural gas, visit swgas.com.

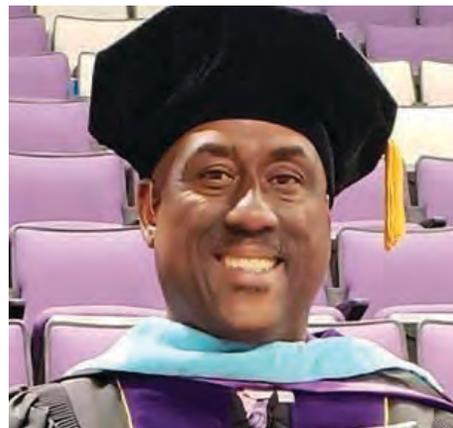


<< continued from p8



Eric Butler

SHUT IT DOWN! I promise it'll end faster.



Charles McCall

COVID never left. So please wear your masks, social distance and get vaccinated.



Michelle Hatter

The real question is, "What are we going to do if the city shuts down again because some people refuse to get vaccinated and wear masks?"



Angelina Simon

We shouldn't have ever let down our guards. No matter what other states do; someone has to stand up and out. Mask up!

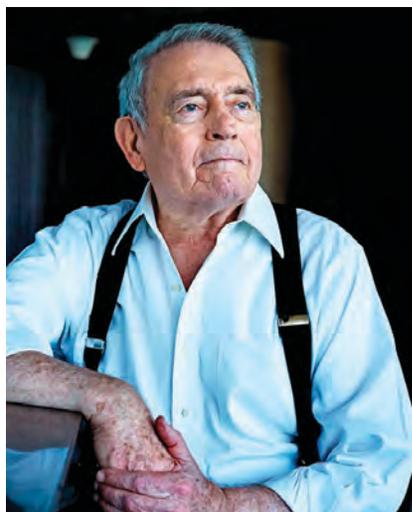
Rather Exciting

“What Unites US: The Graphic Novel” is available free to all Nevada residents courtesy of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

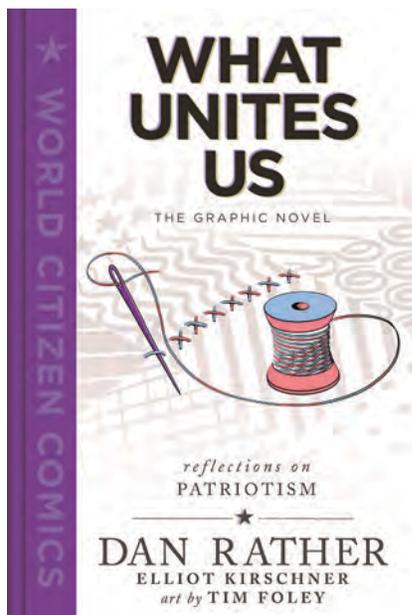
Looking for your next great summer read? Las Vegas Clark-County Library District and Macmillan Publishers have announced that the newly released Dan Rather eBook, “What Unites Us: The Graphic Novel,” is available free to all Nevada residents.

In this illustrated adaptation of Rather’s best-selling collection of essays, the legendary news anchor provides a voice of reason and explores what it means to be a true patriot — perfect to spark some lively conversation among book clubs and summer readers. The graphic novel covers Rather’s coverage of the Civil Rights Movement, the Voting Rights Act, freedom of the press, and much more in a format that appeals to all ages.

The eBook is available via geolocation to anyone in Nevada at LVCCCLD.org/BiblioBoard. The graphic novel appeals to all age groups and will be exclusively available now through August 27, 2021. The new BiblioBoard eBook platform used by LVCCCLD will provide wider access to discover digital books from best-selling independent authors, while also creating a vehicle for local self-published authors to create and share their work



Dan Rather



with a national audience. In addition to the award-winning eBook, users of the platform can explore a digital archive collection of Rather’s illustrious journalism career.

“We are proud to sponsor the availability of this important new graphic novel to all residents of Nevada,” said Kelvin Watson, Executive Director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. “It has been a pleasure to collaborate with Macmillan Publishers on this project as we explore new ways that public libraries and publishers can work together for our mutual benefit, to create a more accessible culture or reading for all.”

As part of the event launch, Watson interviewed Rather for a national audience, which is also available at LVCCCLD.org/BiblioBoard. Watson has been at the helm of several large library systems across the United States over the past decade, and is the former president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)

and a national leader in the conversation about racial equity in America. He is also the recipient of the 2021 RUSA Margaret E. Monroe Library Adult Services Award for leadership in this area.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL | FROM DB’S CAJUN KITCHEN

Blazin’ Cajun Chicken Rolls



Ingredients

- 1 cup diced chicken breast
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 red bell pepper diced and sautéed
- 1/2 cup of diced bacon
- 1/4 cup of DB’s Cajun spice

Directions

- Mix all ingredients together.
- Put 2 tablespoons of mix in an egg roll wrap.
- Wet corners of egg roll wrap then roll wraps.
- Fry in oil at 350 degrees for three minutes Best served with ranch.

DB’s Cajun Kitchen @Dbscajunkitchen
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<< continued from p15

Johnson decided to become a nurse, enrolled in classes, and worked for 17 years at Southern Nevada Hospital.

As far as we know, she was the first trained Black nurse in the Las Vegas Valley. But she wasn’t done. She wanted better for the Black community and began the work that brought Head Start to the city. Her desire for better housing in the Westside led to her engagement with the city to conduct a housing survey that resulted in the federally funded Marble Manor Development that opened in 1952.

One of her favorite stories of activism occurred when Josephine Baker performed at the El Rancho in the early 1950s — under a contract that allowed her to perform to an integrated audience.

On the second night, the hotel stated that since they had adhered to the contract once, they would not have to allow Blacks in on the second evening. Johnson and a group of other Black people walked with Baker into the showroom but were refused service. So, Baker went on stage and just sat there refusing to perform. Once her guests were served, she put on her show. Lubertha and her friends enjoyed it exceedingly well.

Lubertha Johnson always believed in the potential that Las Vegas held for Blacks. She was known for saying that, “Here, there is really an opportunity to build and do new things and to develop in a way that we couldn’t develop in many other cities.” And she did just that.

YOU! HAVE THE POWER

Life choices: medical or political?

By Dr. Ellen Brown

Seventeen months. That is how long it has been since we got slapped straightaway in the face with the most undeniably debilitating medical crisis in the lifetimes of most people around the world.

The tragedies forced upon us have been enormous and overpowering. My heart bleeds for the friends and families who have suffered losses. The loved ones, co-workers, neighbors, friends, family members, acquaintances, and public figures whose lives were cut short by this pandemic.

Just as we were hearing that the pandemic losses were dropping as the result of vaccinations — BAM! It starts all over. Most of us simply do not know what to do



or how to do it if we did know the answer. There is one thing for sure: each one of us has some level of power to exercise that could potentially decrease the numbers of people afflicted and who die. Sadly, I personally know people, family or otherwise who cared more about their political rights and power than anything medical.

This is how I choose to present my message: each of us is mostly free to express choices, even though they bring debate; but the numbers and facts are what matter. What challenges me personally is how my family, friends, neighbors make decisions about their choices relative to

a proven pandemic; decisions are based on medical data, political messaging or both.

Medical: nearly 5,000 people in Nevada have died from COVID-19.

Political: All 5,000 were not actually COVID-19 patients; they were labeled that for financial benefits.

Medical: Wearing PPE prevents/minimizes the virus from transmission through body fluids.

Political: Forcing the wearing of PPE to prevent transmission violates my constitutional rights.

Medical: People with certain pre-existing health conditions are more at risk of serious consequences.

Political: These people were already high risk to any number of medical conditions taking them out.

Medical: The vaccines are safe and

provide high efficacy for protection against COVID-19.

Political: Reports of CDC data indicate over 4,000 people died after vaccinations; testing not adequate.

Of course, both are significant positions, and this list only shows the random tip of the iceberg; however, the reality for me is people I know personally have been affected by COVID-19.

Each of us can make a decision about the steps we choose toward protection. Which will weigh heavier on you: medical or political?

I welcome your comments.

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

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2. Additional information about the Down Payment program: Down Payment program is currently limited to two specific mortgage products. Program funds can be applied toward down payment only. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back in excess of earnest money deposits. Down Payment Grant program may be considered taxable income, a 1099-MISC will be issued, consult with your tax advisor. May be combined with other offers. The Bank of America Down Payment Grant program may only be applied once to an eligible mortgage/property, regardless of the number of applicants. Homebuyer education is required.

3. Additional information about the America's Home Grant program: The America's Home Grant program is a lender credit. Program funds can only be used for nonrecurring closing costs including title insurance, recording fees, and in certain situations, discount points may be used to lower the interest rate. The grant cannot be applied toward down payment, prepaid items or recurring costs, such as property taxes and insurance. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back.

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