

Las Vegas

Black Image

MARCH 2023

FREE



Jordan Rules

Powerful performance and directorial debut in 'Creed III'



In celebration of Women's History Month, we honor iconic golfer Ann Gregory

Inside

How dance communicates the rhythm of our history and culture
Taste & Sounds of Soul celebrates the power of Black excellence

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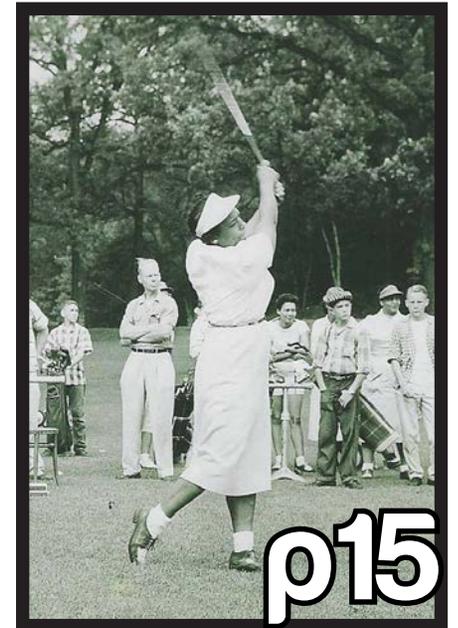
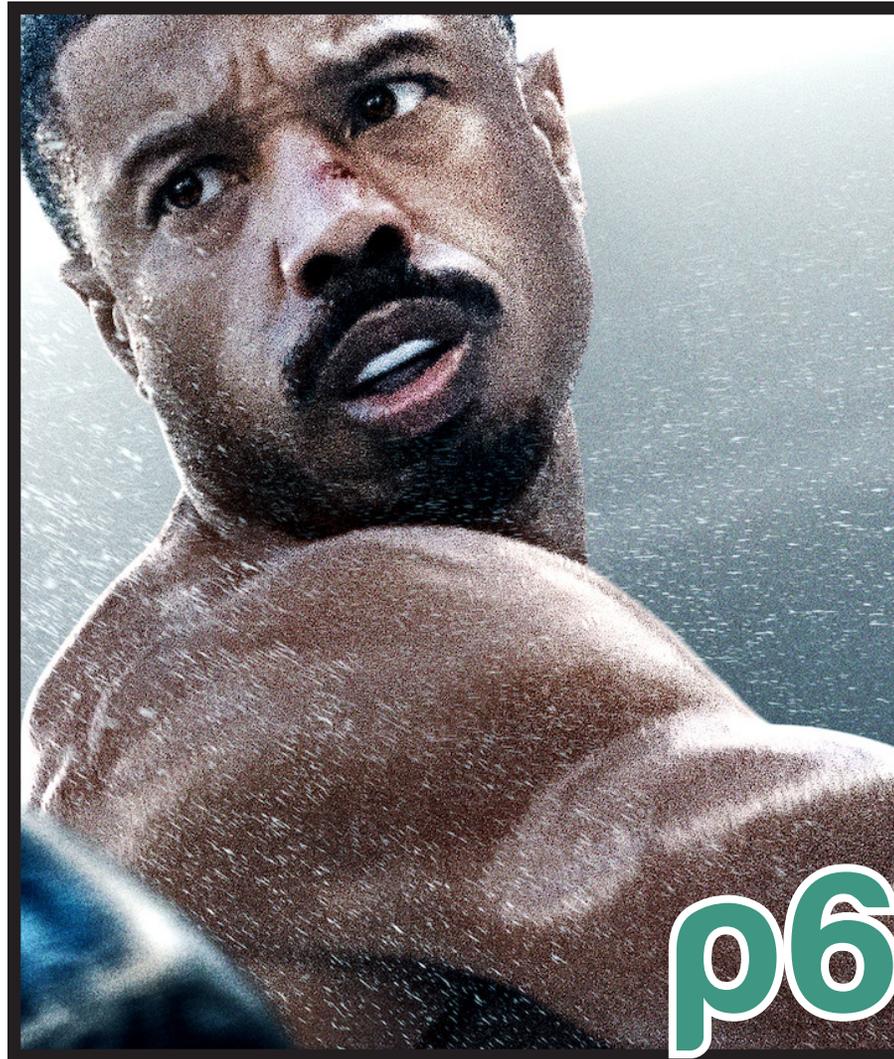
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what's inside:



Living the Simple Life

By Kimberly Bailey-Tureaud



People and situations often seem very complicated or give the impression of complexities that lack truth. Remember: you have the power to interpret and dissect the complications in life and simplify them for adequate mental digestion.

We are conditioned to always make others feel valid, greater than, intelligent, and justified — because some feel safer when being led. The cry is often loud, “What is my assignment?” But it can fall on deaf ears, because God has already given you a life to experience and uphold His masterpiece. Each day can bring certainty through emotional connectivity with the spiritual plane. Absolution is His gift.

So break it down. Yes, life is really a 1-2-3 process on the daily, according to priorities that give you peace. If you can accomplish the 1-2-3s of your life to reach

the goals of your soul, then “enough” is the answer.

The simplified life will serve as a shield of protection against infiltrators trying to derail your journey. You only have one job each day — to fulfill the 1-2-3s of

your daily life, according to your priorities.

Remember to always feed your soul, which generates the smiles others enjoy. Love is always the ingredient controlling the momentum in reaching your accomplishments. Make your journey a wonderful, blissful one — then trust and believe you will still arrive safely at your destination.

Consistent forward movement — be it physical, mental, or spiritual — will take you there. Prepare for peace and serenity upon arrival.

Yes, life is really a 1-2-3 process on the daily, according to priorities that give you peace.

Racial Policies May Doom America

By Louie Overstreet



The evolutionary march of race-based laws is comparable to the evolutionary arrival of homo erectus — not an actor in adult movies, but the one from eons ago.

Race-based policies and laws have been evolving in America since the mid-1600s. If you need further knowledge in this regard, read “The 1619 Project” before it is banned in states other than Florida. The book contains a lot of documented facts that have shown how bigoted minds — to paraphrase Col. Jessup in “A Few Good Men — “Can’t handle the truth!” I will be the first to admit that learning the truth was even a shock to me, given what I was taught about American history in Cleveland public schools during the 1950s.

If you need examples, then check out the Fugitive Slave Act, anti-literacy laws, and Jim Crow codes from back then — up to the overt intent of laws being passed today.

It is beyond me why we continue to fiddle around with the issue of race, in a supposedly democratic society, at a time we need all hands on deck to deal with the real threat of at least a quartet of provocative nations hell-bent on changing

the world order of good versus evil.

It troubles me to no end that we have to go over ground plowed back in the mid-1950s and throughout the violent 1960s. Of historical note, free love (or more accurately, the only cost of love back then was a trip to a doctor’s office) was happening concurrently. Violence and free love taking place at the same time — yet we survived and progressed as a society. It was quite surprising to those of us who lived through it.

Nowadays, we are running, stumbling, and fumbling our way through the 2020s, by engaging in divisive racial behavior at the source. It is going to doom us for sure, unless we ...

Race-based policies and laws have been evolving in America since the mid-1600s.

Southwest Gas Ranked #1 in Customer Service by J.D. Power

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Southwest Gas strives to elevate customer satisfaction through effective

communications, working diligently to exceed customer expectations every day.

The Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study measures residential customer satisfaction across six study factors: price, safety and reliability, billing and payment, corporate citizenship, communications, and customer care. Southwest Gas ranked highest across all six factors. Southwest Gas received an

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Get in the Ring

All we can say is, “Wow!” This year’s Black History Month celebrations in Las Vegas were beyond our imagination – and we appreciate the incredible efforts by businesses, community organizations, and non-profits to recognize a fundamental truth: Black history is American history.

We are thrilled to feature superstar actor Michael B. Jordan on this month’s cover, as he prepared for release of the highly-anticipated sequel “Creed III.” It is an extraordinary movie that brings to light the intricacies of relationships, self-appreciation, and the power of taking an unapologetic approach to individual accomplishment.

Of course, March also brings the celebration of Women’s History Month – and we are honored to feature an exclusive story on the iconic professional golfer Ann Gregory, who didn’t allow any barriers to stop her victories.

The Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health once again gave a fabulous fundraiser at the MGM Resort International. It was a star-studded affair raising funds to fight brain diseases that affect people from every walk of life. Thank you for once again including Las Black Image in this important cause.

The National 100 Black Women organization delighted us with their African Fashion Gala, showcasing fabulous style that puts our history and culture on center stage.

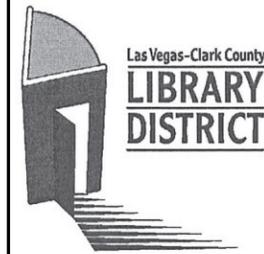
Las Vegas Black Image is full of gratitude for our partnership with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District to host the 23rd Annual LV Taste & Sounds of Soul Extravaganza & LV Black Image Magazine Honors at the Flamingo Library. The partnership was masterful, and we thank the library district staff who made the event a wonderful experience for all.



Charles Tureaud and Kimberly Bailey Tureaud

We hope you enjoy this issue of Las Vegas Black Image Magazine and we again thank our team of contributing writers and executive publishing staff for bringing you their BEST!

*Charles Tureaud &
Kimberly Bailey Tureaud*
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With “Creed III,” Michael B. Jordan delivers a powerful performance and an extraordinary directorial debut.

And the crowd goes wild! Las Vegas Black Image attended a special premiere for “Creed III,” where the theater was packed and the audience was delighted. From the movie’s official synopsis: “After dominating the boxing world, Adonis Creed (played by Michael B. Jordan) has been thriving in both his career and family life. When a childhood friend and former boxing prodigy, Damian (Played by Jonathan Majors) resurfaces after serving a long sentence in prison, he is eager to prove that he deserves his shot in the ring. The face-off between former friends is more than just a fight. To settle the score, Adonis must put his future on the line to battle Damian — a fighter who has nothing to lose. “Creed III” is the third installment in the successful film franchise and Michael B. Jordan’s directorial debut.” Writer and producer Ryan Coogler doesn’t disappoint and brings the best of intense suspense and action to moviegoers.

According to Jordan, “I wanted the characters in my film ... to face their disagreements while making a statement about humanity and its nuances, with empathy. How we handle and communicate our emotions is a part of our exploration of our inner self. In ‘Creed III,’ the film shows the different roads, relationships and interactions of two men that made different choices, lived different lives and found themselves in the same ring.

“I wanted my film to reflect lessons I have learned in life. Lessons about being kind to one another, but mostly kind to ourselves. Most of us have not been taught how to do that. I wanted my film to also tackle the issues of toxic masculinity and what happens when you don’t face your past, when you don’t talk about and work through your trauma and pain.

“Forgiveness is the most integral part of any conflict because it is the only way to overcome what you’re up against and confronting yourself in a real way is how you move forward with healing. At the heart of ‘Creed III’ is forgiveness.

Forgiveness of self and others. No matter who you are, or what your circumstances are, you can overcome your past, you can overcome any obstacle.

“This film is not about one man fighting another for a world title. It is about challenging yourself and proving to yourself that your existence is legitimate, that you deserve your blessings. Moving with grace for yourself and for others.

Believing that you are who you say you are, and all that you’ve done actually matters.”

Las Vegas Black Image Magazine gives “Creed III” a rating of 10 out of 10. We hope you enjoy the movie and are inspired by it.

BELIEVING THAT YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE, AND ALL THAT YOU’VE DONE ACTUALLY MATTERS.



Celebrate through exploring, making, designing & engineering

The Library District recognizes makers of all ages during the month of March! Check out our upcoming FREE events that we have planned, as well as our fun, online learning resources, like Creativebug, which lets you enjoy hundreds of DIY projects 24/7 with your library card.

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Brain Power

The Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health brings stars together for the Power of Love Gala.

Las Vegas Black Image was among the institutions and individuals privileged to participate in the Power of Love Gala at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. At the invitation of Dr. Dylan Wint MD, Director of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, the crowd enjoyed a spectacular evening of entertainment to raise crucial money for brain health that will provide quality care, resources and no-cost support and education services to patients and their caregivers – as they do battle with brain diseases that include Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s, multiple system atrophy, and multiple sclerosis.

Among the superstar performers: Paula Abdul, Michael McDonald, Sammy Hagar, Alice Cooper, Rick

Springfield, Kevin Cronin, Nikki Glaser, Chad Kroeger, John Mayer, and Sam Moore. We thank Nicole Katriss of KCEP’s 88.1 FM morning show for covering the lavish red carpet at the gala.

They are supporting a cause that is increasingly critical for the African-American community, as brain health for Black people is disproportionately lower than other ethnic groups. According to Lisa L. Barnes of the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center at Rush University Medical Center, “research on racial differences in Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and dementia has increased in recent years.” She writes: “Older African American individuals bear a bigger burden of AD and cognitive impairment compared with non-Latino white individu-

als. Tremendous progress has been made over the past two decades in understanding of the neurobiological substrates of AD. However, owing to well-documented challenges of study, participant recruitment, and a persistent lack of biological data in the African American population, knowledge of the drivers of these racial disparities has lagged behind.”

Las Vegas Black Image encourages you to participate in medical trials at the Cleveland Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, so that accurate data can be obtained and help fight against brain disease that is killing Black people.

For more information and how you can help “Fight the Fight” against brain disease call: (702) 483-6000.



Larry Ruvo, Camille Ruvo, Keep Memory Alive Co-founders and Vice Chairs. Credit – Denise Truscello, Getty Images



John Mayer, Greg Phillinganes, Rick Springfield, Alice Cooper. Credit – Denise Truscello, Getty Images



Kevin Cronin, Paula Abdul, John Mayer, Sam Moore. Credit – Denise Truscello, Getty Images

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Ending racial disparities in pregnancy-related death

By Dr. Annette Mayes OB/GYN

Most pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, but racial and ethnic disparities have persisted over time. Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native women are two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women — and this disparity increases with age, according to researchers



at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births (otherwise known as the pregnancy-related mortality ratio or PRMR) for Black women older than 30 was four to five times as high as it was for white women. Even in states with the lowest PRMRs and among women with higher levels of education, significant differences persist. These findings suggest that the disparity observed in pregnancy-related death for Black women is a complex national prob-

lem.

These disparities are devastating for families and communities, and work is being done to eliminate them. There is an urgent need to identify and evaluate the complex factors contributing to these disparities and to design interventions that will reduce preventable pregnancy-related deaths.

The CDC's Pregnancy-Related Mortality Surveillance System (PMSS) defines a pregnancy-related death as the death of a woman during pregnancy or within one

year of the end of pregnancy complication; a chain of events initiated by pregnancy; or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

Every pregnancy-related death is tragic, especially because two in three of them are preventable. Recognizing urgent maternal warning signs and providing timely treatment and quality care can prevent many pregnancy-related deaths.

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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Maria Shriver. Credit — Denise Truscello, Getty Images



Dr. Dylan Wint, Director of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

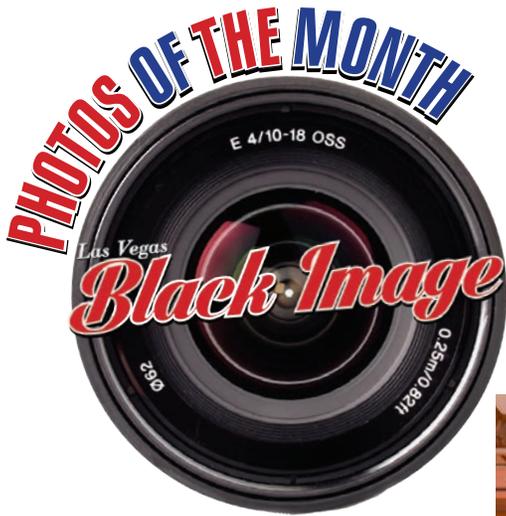


KCEP morning personality Nicole Katriss and Paula Abdul on the red carpet.

Fashionable Entrance

Photos by Clark McCarrell Jr.

We captured enthralling images as the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. Las Vegas Chapter held its 5th Annual African Fashion Show with Glitz & Glamour. It was hosted at Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, celebrating the African-American image through education, history and fashion. Guest speaker was Claytee White, director of the Oral History Research Center at UNLV. Fashion show commentary was provided by media personality Zenja Dunn.



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Honoring the great JoAnn Gregory, who fought racism to become the first Black champion in professional golf

March is Women's History Month, as we honor the countless women who have contributed to our country. No one can deny the extraordinary contributions of legendary Black women – leaders, thinkers, and achievers who laid the foundation for American progress.

Some of the most well-known historical figures – women like Harriet Tubman, Phyllis Wheatley, Dr. Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks, Ida B. Wells, and Sojourner Truth – helped to lift the veil of discrimination and provide a pathway to dignity and advancement. Those and other names will echo through the ages, and we are giving a special spotlight to someone who broke the glass ceiling in professional golf – and whose achievements provide a roadmap to a winning attitude for life.

Las Vegas Black Image is honored to share the story of professional golf great Ann Gregory (1912-1990) – from her daughter JoAnn Gregory Overstreet's point of view.

We were invited to Raiders headquarters for a special screening of "Playing Through," based on the life of Ann Gregory – who was described by the late Arthur Ashe in his book, "Hard Road to Glory," as the "best African American female golfer of the 20th Century, and there was no one who was a close second."

Ms. Gregory's professional golf career road resulted in her becoming the first Black woman in the United States Golf Association (USGA) Championship. She began in the late 1950s when discrimination and segregation governed all but the totality of Black life. but Ms. Gregory's determination to never accept "no," because of the color of her skin was the engine that pressed through the walls of inequality. In a career that spanned five decades, she won over 300 worldwide tournaments and her crowning achievement was winning the gold medal at the US Senior Olympics in 1989 by a whopping 4 strokes over women 25 years her



Professional golf legend Ann Gregory



Ann Gregory's daughter JoAnn Gregory Overstreet

junior.

We sat down with JoAnn Gregory Overstreet for a conversation about her mother's life and legacy.

What were some of the characteristics that your mother handed down to you?

I know my mother was a very strong woman – and I always wanted to be strong like her, in terms of my views and actions. She always wanted to let people affected by racism know that it doesn't have to cripple you and make you believe that you can't do what you really want to do – contrary to how people treat you. One must believe that they are able and capable despite the roadblocks of discrimination. My mother loved the game of golf, and she also wanted to break the racial barrier because she wanted to play with the best. She had the gift for being a great golfer and she wanted to be the best. I know she would be proud of her granddaughters' (Lorie and Piper) career accomplishments and her great grandkids' (Torrance, Taryn, and Hailey) achievements in school.

In "Playing Through," the young lady who portrayed your mother was fabulous.

Yes, her name is Andia Winslow. She was the first African American female to attend Yale University on a golf scholarship. She came to our family and asked

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Fighting for F Street

By Claytee D. White

In October 1969, the Westside erupted with frustration, anger, poverty, poor living conditions, police brutality, unemployment, city government oppression, and a welfare system gone wrong. The riot/rebellion/revolution lasted for three days, and the city responded by blocking entrances to the community with military vehicles and personnel from Nellis Air Force Base. Militarization of the area was never forgotten and rose to memory's surface in 2008, when the City of Las Vegas and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) made the decision to close F Street at Bonanza Road as part of a project to widen the Interstate 15 Freeway.

Discussions during City Council meet-



ings and a limited campaign of distributing flyers did not inform the community that a major Westside street would be closed. There were no notifications via the local Black radio station - Power 88 KCEP, The Peoples Station. There were no community meetings held. There was no information disseminated in the many Westside churches. Therefore, the community was not informed.

The decision shocked community members who began a protest to voice their displeasure at the city's assumption that the closing of F Street was just business as usual. And in the backs of the minds of many in the Westside were thoughts of the Smith Center. The first major performing arts center that could rival the Dorothy Chandler in Los Angeles would soon be under construction a few blocks from the Historic Black community. The Smith Center was envisioned as a world-class performing arts and cultural center (and has exceeded all expectations). The May

2009 groundbreaking was just around the corner. What if non-Black theater patrons were to accidentally get lost on the Westside? These thoughts and theories had no informed foundation - just speculation.

In the City that I love, in the area where I want to live before 2024 ends, these following comments were quoted in a publication of the American Sociological Association in an article by Robert McKee and Shannon M. Monnat: "The Las Vegas Review Journal/Sun encouraged residents to post their thoughts online regarding the F Street closure and potential reopening."

Three excerpts from comments posted on May 28, 2009, reflect the overt racist ideologies held by some Las Vegas residents:

- "Get over it. You are not that important that millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars should be spent so you can get to "ghetto alley" a bit easier."

- "If you people of the Westside are

worried about your welfare checks being late because of the closer (sic) don't, the U.S. mail will find you. If your (sic) worried about the person wanting to buy crack from you can't find your house, or will have to walk a little further, don't worry they will find you. If your (sic) worried your parole officer won't find you, don't worry they will find you, grow up people it's called progress, and growth."

- "Cement the 'residents' in with a wall on all sides that is too tall for them to scale, escape from, throw watermelons over or chuck chicken bones over. If they 'be' complaining, drop enough cement to completely cover them, thus creating a nice dome-like existence for them. You could drop welfare checks through a small hole in the dome. Or not. Food? Grow their own!"

In December 2014, F Street was reopened with a 12-mural museum-quality exhibit painted on the walls.



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YOU! HAVE THE POWER

Enabling power to the people for 20 years

By Dr. Ellen Brown

POWER. WHO?

YOU. There is an age-old saying: "If you want something done, give it to a busy person." That is the motto attached



to this Vegas Lady of Power. Her work in the community goes back 20 years — and she is no stranger to change, activism or conflict for the good of the people. Many know her by the ever-present style that affirms her belief in "it ain't over 'til it's over!"

Nedra Cooper is well-known for showing up, showing out, and making things happen — but this is where power-sharing begins. It is in this segment of her work that she excels.

First comes the "offer." With kindness and a humble presence her truth emerg-

es. Nedra needs only to know the cause in order to get to work on the tasks. Ensuring that few stones are unturned, she forms a team and the train is on its way.

POWER. WHAT?

ACTION. Giving it up is the action that makes power work best. The most successful leaders know how to give by empowering the team, leading to a much more effective outcome. What you get is your own power through knowledge, encouragement, observation and more. Nedra and others like her want us to realize we must always have each other's backs.

POWER. WHERE?

THERE. When Nedra proposed a film fest to the Deltas of Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter 20 years ago, the first question



Nedra Cooper

she encountered was, "Who is giving us films for free?" The subsequent questions were: "Where would we present them?" "What types?" "When would the community take time to come out and see them?" And the biggest question was, "Why would anyone come out on a Saturday to watch a film?"

The answer to all of them: Where there is a void that can be filled, the people find a way to fill it.

POWER. WHEN?

NOW! The job of serving community needs is continuous. As people are exposed to achievable solutions, even more realize that someone cares. Nedra Cooper had a dream to show people that we care about the needs of our community. By embracing her own power, she impacted other organizations who now

come together for the good of all.

POWER. WHY?

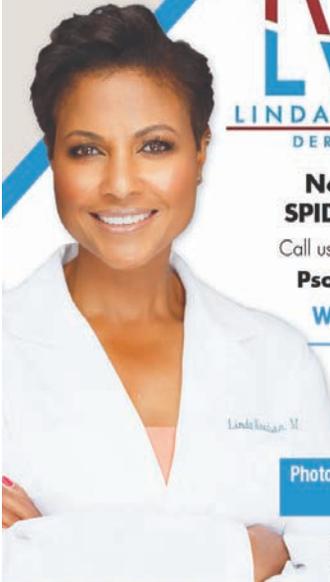
BECAUSE. The Las Vegas community for 20 years has shown up for the Film Fest at the West Las Vegas Library. These free films ranged from entertaining to sustaining. The most recent being "Aftershock." Screened in February, this documentary spotlighted a topic most of us knew nothing about: the genesis and rise of C-section pregnancies among Black mothers that result in death.

This annual event now includes community sponsors working together bringing awareness to many important issues affecting our well-being.

Nedra Cooper, one of many people sharing their power and keeping hope alive in our community.

Dr. Ellen Brown is a retired university educator and dean and can be reach her with thoughts and ideas at ebrown.nci@gmail.com





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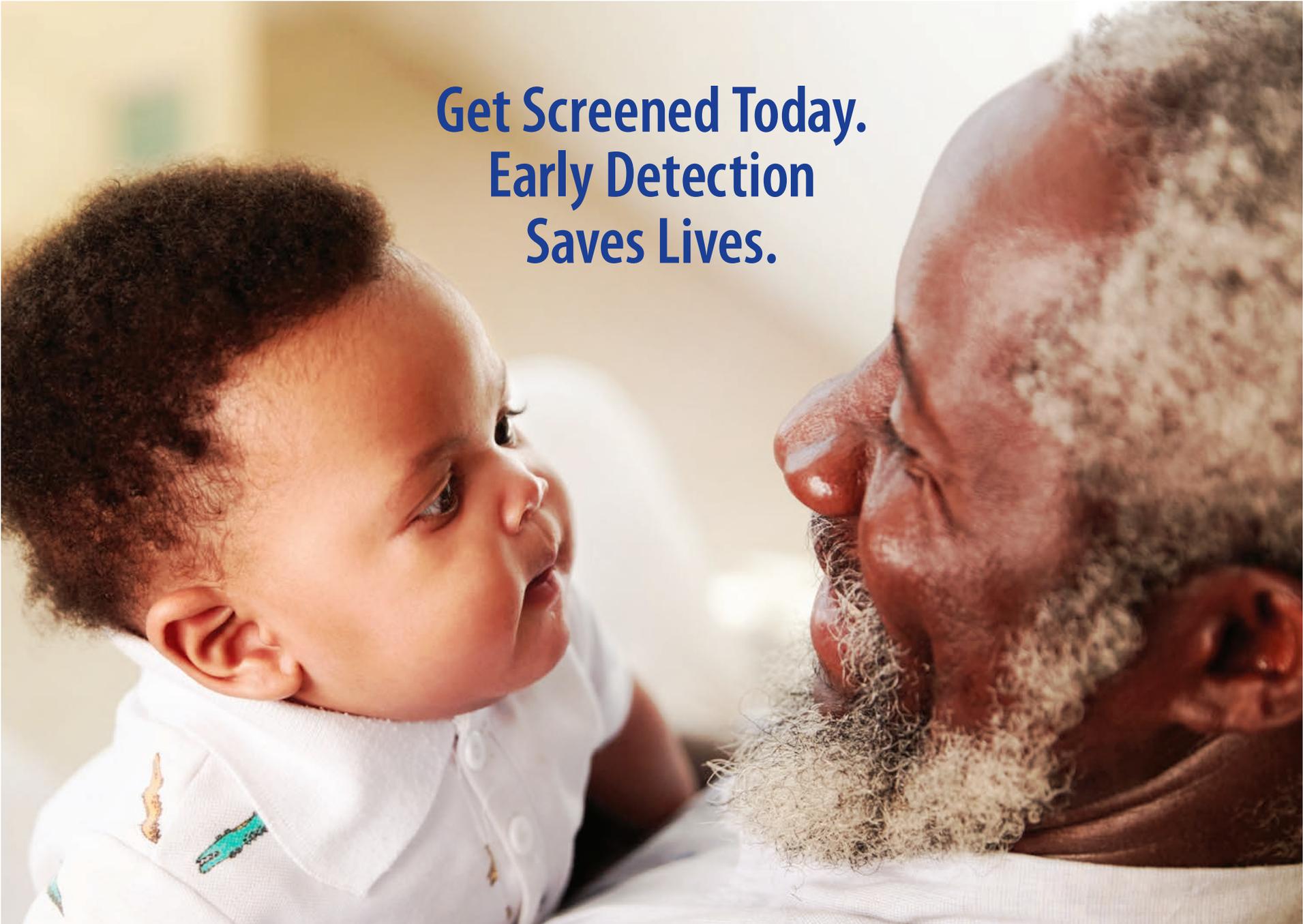




100 Black Women member Glennie Gaines



Tony Gladney and fashion show commentator Zenja Dunn



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What Black woman from history or now has inspired you the most?



Penny Fuller

Dr. Beverly Mathis inspires me to be the best teacher I can be for the children. Today, as a retired teacher, I have taken on a position of mentoring new teachers. I find myself thinking back on what Dr. Mathis did to inspire and motivate me to give my best to my students. I'm trying to impart these little gems of knowledge unto new teacher candidates, but it's not easy. This is why I know what a gift I had in Dr. Beverly Mathis — educator extraordinaire.



Tasha Robinson-White

Debbie Allen inspires me. I was informally introduced to her while watching the TV show "Fame" back in the day. It was love at first sight. As I followed Ms. Allen's career — watching her grow as a dancer, actress, writer, director, producer, and philanthropist — I realized a woman's possibilities. I was also impacted by her being a wife and a mom. Auntie Debbie is tangible, real, and a beautiful Black woman. She dances to her own beat while calling her own shots in the creative space. We actually met later in life, and she is kind of like family now. Her niece is my daughter's Godmom.



China Hudson

Dr. Marcia Robinson of the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center is the GOAT, even though she will not accept recognition. Also, Cassandra Lewis who is the director of the Doolittle Active Adult Senior Center. She loves and is compassionate about our community seniors.



Rev. Sam Roberson

Mrs. Ethel Pearson, who forced the opening of the D Street & H Street when the City of Las Vegas tried to enclose the Historic Westside



Louie Overstreet

All the millions of nameless mothers over many generations who raised their children to do the right things — in spite of great odds.



Anthony Johnson

China Hudson is an inspiration. She's outspoken and really cares about her community enough to be honest about how she feels. We need more women like her in Las Vegas.

Passing the Leadership Test

Cox Communications honors women and men making an extraordinary impact on the Southern Nevada community.

Cox Communications celebrated Black History Month with honors for four Southern Nevadans and their impact in our community.

Honorees included North Las Vegas Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown; Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President of Nevada State College; Kelvin Watson, Executive Direc-

tor of Las Vegas-Clark County Library District; and Wallace Bell, Cox Director of Construction.

"Cox is proud to honor these outstanding Southern Nevadans during Black History Month and to acknowledge the significant 'firsts' these leaders have achieved for Nevada," said Cox Las Ve-

gas Market Vice President Janet Uthman.

The honorees represent the worlds of politics, public service, business, and education:

- Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown is the first African-American mayor in Nevada history.

- Dr. DeRionne Pollard is the first permanent Black woman president of any institution in the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

- Wallace Bell is Director of Construction for Cox Las Vegas and utilizes 35 years of industry experience to lead his

continued on next page >>



Ann Gregory and Jackie Robinson



Ann Gregory and her daughter JoAnn at age two.



Ann Gregory with two of her golf trophies.

many questions about mom, because she wanted to do a great job portraying her. We knew she would do a good job and she really did a terrific job.

What do you think the bigger message is for all women in "Playing Through?"

I feel that the bigger message one can take from the movie is what my mother fought for – and that was, "If you desire to make a difference in your life that you will be remembered for – you can. You can set a new precedent for excellence with your talents and inspire other women to do the same. Be your best!"

Did your mother want you to become a golfer?

Yes, and she would bundle me up, as a small child, and take me with her the golf course. Also, after my dad came back from World War II, we were always by her side on golf courses everywhere.

What can we still learn from your mother's life today?

My mother truly did not believe in the word "no." She was a trailblazer and pioneer who set the stage for every African American female in the game of golf. She endured adversity to compete in the field

of golf as an African American woman. Her boundless spirit allowed her to overcome inequality and to set the stage for other women to follow her in the untested professional golf game. She was a role model in the field of athletics, social justice and a defender for the rights of others.

It was very interesting to see, in the film, your mother's sensitivity and kinship with white women.

That was another reason to do the film. My mother believed that you don't have to have a feeling of racism in a seg-

regated environment. My mother had to overcome many indignities, yet her character created a pathway towards building an extraordinary career. Her integrity, faith, and strength carried her through. She knew she had the courage and belief in God to refuse to let the word "no" stop her.

In conclusion, please allow me to note, at the time of my mother's passing, Carolyn Cudone, a national USGA champion commented, "Ann was a lady and could really play. She was a fine competitor and she played the game as it should be played."



Dr. DeRionne Pollard



Kelvin Watson



Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown



Wallace Bell

diverse team.

· Kelvin Watson is Executive Director of Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, overseeing 25 branches run by 600+ employees, spanning 8,000 square miles, with a budget of \$77 million and a collection of 3.2 million items.

At the choosing of these honorees, Cox has donated \$1,000 to each of the following nonprofits: Project 150; Generation Hope; Goodie Two Shoes Foundation; and The Diamond Foundation.

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human

connection through broadband applications and services. The largest private telecom company in America, it serves nearly seven million homes and businesses across 18 states. Cox is dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, peo-

ple, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that make each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

In Their Names

Over 25 Clark County schools bear the names of African-Americans. In celebration of Black History Month, Dr. Beverly Mathis of the Public Education Foundation honored these icons who have campuses named in their honor.



Anna Bailey, representing her late husband for William H. Bob Bailey Middle School; and Hannah Brown, representing Hannah Brown Elementary School.

<< continued from page 4

overall score of 783, which was 45 points higher than the rest of the West Region.

On the Gas Utility Business Customer Satisfaction Study, Southwest Gas ranked number one in the West Segment with an overall score of 844 — 43 points above the West Region. The six key factors in the ranking for Business are safety and reliability; billing and payment; corporate citizenship; price; communications; and customer contact. The company was also recognized for delivering the best in safety and reliability, billing and payment, corporate citizenship, price and communications in the West Region of the J.D.

Power 2022 Gas Utility Business Customer Satisfaction Study.

For more information about Southwest Gas, visit swgas.com.

Southwest Gas received the highest score in the West Region of the J.D. Power 2020-2022 U.S. Gas Utility Business Customer Satisfaction Studies and the West Large Segment of the J.D. Power 2020-2022 U.S. Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Studies of customers' satisfaction nationally among gas business and residential customers. Visit jdpower.com/awards for more details.

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Good Taste

The 23rd Annual Las Vegas Taste & Sounds of Soul Extravaganza & LV Black Image Magazine puts a spotlight on success in the Black community

Las Vegas Black Image Magazine hosted the 23rd Annual Las Vegas Taste & Sounds of Soul Extravaganza and Las Vegas Black Image Magazine Honors on Feb. 26, in partnership with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. The event capped off a soulful Black History Month in the city, as publishers Charles Tureaud and Kimberly Bailey Tureaud presented a delectable celebration of African-American achievement, culture, and cuisine at the Flamingo Library.

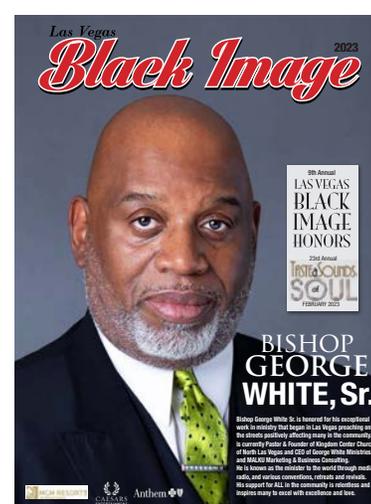
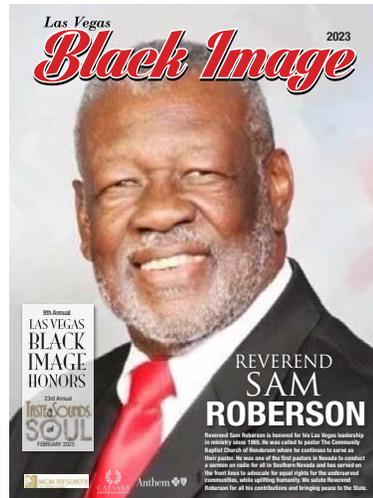
The community-centered location pleased event organizers, who are still working to ensure an even bigger stage for future editions of the festival. “We know many want to have us back on Fremont Street Experience for the Taste & Sounds of Soul Festival, but Fremont Street has indicated they are still under construction. So, we will keep the community posted on when the Taste & Sounds of Soul Festival can return to Fremont Street for Black History Month,” said Charles Tureaud. “It is very important to persist in putting the festival on a big stage that gives Black-owned businesses real access to tourists – and the billions that visitors pump into the Las Vegas economy.”

The Las Vegas Taste & Sounds of Soul Extravaganza LV Black Image Magazine Festival was a tremendous success at the Flamingo Library and showcased the best in entertainment that included: The Soulmatizs Band; Terry Wayne & Band; Brittany Soul & Band; and EC Adams and Band. Fremont Street Experience contortionist Kevin Gordon amazed the crowd, Galaxy Glenn served as the host extraordinaire and DB’s Cajun Kitchen served up the best of cultural foods.

The Las Vegas Black Image Magazine Honors also took place in the fabulous Flamingo Library Theater, honoring the best of Las Vegas. Honorees included:

Reverend Sam Roberson; Bishop George White Sr.; Ms. Ruby Whiten Amie-Pilot; Sheneka Gunn; and Terry Wayne.

The sponsors for the 23rd Annual Las Vegas Taste & Sounds of Soul Extravaganza & Las Vegas Black Image Honors included: MGM Resorts International; Anthem; and Caesars Entertainment. A special thank you goes out to all in the community who have supported the event throughout the years.



Honoree Rev. Sam Roberson is congratulated by his family.



Honoree Ms. Ruby Amie Pilot enjoys food from DB's Cajun Kitchen.



Vivian Jackson and husband, with Kelvin Watson of the Las Vegas Clark County Library District.

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Tap into history

Touro University Nevada celebrates Black History Month with a presentation on the little-known history and cultural significance of a beloved dance form.

The Touro Nevada Stands for Justice Committee and the Student National Medical Association recently held their annual Black History Month celebration in the university event center.

Claytee White, inaugural director of the Oral History Research Center at UNLV, served as the featured speaker — highlighting the early history of Black dancers in Las Vegas.

Dancer and choreographer Victoria Jones spoke on the history of tap dancing in Black America, covering the work of Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson, Sammy Davis, Jr., Gregory Hines, Savion Glover, and Arthur Duncan — early pioneers and modern-day powerhouses in the rarefied world of tap dancing.

Tap dance has a long and storied history in America. Enslaved Blacks were

often forbidden to use drums in the South, because white slave masters believed that the rhythmic drumbeat contained coded messages about rebellion. That meant Blacks held in bondage were forced to create other forms of subversive communication. One of them was tap dancing — a fusion of dances of enslaved Blacks with traditional dances of indentured Irish servants in the 1800s.

Touro University has a strong reputation as an education resource for all Nevadans — and the candid and enlightening Black History Month celebration was a demonstration of the campus' commitment to an honest exploration of our heritage and the legacy of Americans who risked everything to save the soul of a nation.



UNLV's Claytee White speaks to the crowd.



Sounds Steps Dance Company perform.



Tap dancer Victoria Jones gives a tap dance demonstration.



History was given on bebop.



The steppers give history on stepping.



Tap dancer Victoria Jones gives a tap dance demonstration.

Affordable homeownership opportunities for all in rural Nevada

By Kevin Hickey | Nevada Rural Housing Authority

The mission of Nevada Rural Housing is to promote, provide and finance affordable housing opportunities for all rural Nevadans – and through its homeownership programs, it's delivering the opportunity to start building your tomorrow, today. Tangible and intangible, the benefits of homeownership are tremendous. Stability, access to equity, the ability to build generational wealth – owning your own home instills a sense of pride and opens the door to a future of possibilities. It also helps build community and hope!

While the benefits are evident, the path to homeownership may not always be as clear. But the journey is always worth it, and the team at Nevada Rural Housing is ready with the tools and programs to help rural Nevada families achieve their dreams of homeownership. (By the way, “rural” is defined as areas with populations under 150,000 – you can be home at last in southern, rural Nevada.)

The Home Means Nevada Rural Down Payment Assistance Program provides \$15,000 in down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers. That's right – \$15,000 to help you clear that final hurdle and achieve your dream of homeownership!

Want even more great news? For those families living in or relocating to Nye County, Nevada (Pahrump, for example) there's the new Buy In Nye program by Nevada Rural Housing that has two down payment assistance options: \$16,000 or \$5,000, which come with lower interest rates to boot!

Both programs are funded by the American Rescue Plan Act with money set aside by the State's Home Means Nevada initiative and by Nye County. It's just the right help at just the right time to help first-time homebuyers purchase a home!

Did you know homebuyers could save

even more? By pairing one of the two programs above with Home At Last's Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC), buyers could save thousands of dollars every year on their taxes – for the life of the loan! That's money that can be saved for vacation, home repairs and improvements, education, and so much more!

To begin your homeownership journey, visit HomeAtLastEducation.org. There you'll complete Homebuyer 101, Nevada Rural Housing's free, on-line homebuyer education course. The course teaches you all about Nevada Rural Housing's various homeownership programs, the mortgage process, and what to expect when buying a home. Next, visit our lender referral page at FindANevadaLender.org to find an approved lender near you. There's no separate application with Nevada Rural Housing – your lender will walk you through the entire process while we cheer you on! For more information and details, visit HomeAt-

LastNV.org.

**Subject to change. A Home At Last approved lender will determine eligibility for the MCC program. Not all applicants will qualify. Example savings figures are estimates and for illustrative purposes only. Reference to rates is for illustrative purposes only. NRHA does not offer this information to solicit a mortgage application or as tax advice. All MCC holders or applicants should consult their own tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service for guidance regarding the calculation of the tax credit benefit. Participating lenders are responsible to reserve Home At Last loans at the rates published with eHousingPlus and must follow all program and loan agency guidelines. Loan rates vary based on loan type and amount of assistance provided. Nevada Rural Housing Authority is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

<< continued from p23



Volunteers for the extravaganza: Venetta Wilson, Queen of the Divas of Soul Las Vegas; and Renard, member of Self Rep organization.



Terry Wayne and band perform at extravaganza.



Sonja Washington, owner of Castle of Cakes, gave out free cupcakes.

Fresh Coat

UNLV's Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine hosts ceremony celebrating the transition from classroom to clinic.

Sixty members of UNLV's Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine received their white coats at a ceremony inside the campus' Artemus Ham Concert Hall.

The White Coat Ceremony is an important rite of passage for medical students, signaling the halfway point of their time in medical school. Members of the

Class of 2025 are now transitioning from classroom to clinic, where they will spend their final two years shadowing physicians and interacting with patients. The coats symbolize professionalism, caring and trust – values that form the bedrock of the practice of medicine.

Speakers at the event included UNLV President Keith Whitfield and medical school dean Dr. Marc J. Kahn, along with others who explained the significance of the ceremony and led the students in reciting the physician pledge.



UNLV White Coat Ceremony



UNLV White Coat Ceremony



UNLV White Coat Medical School student celebrates with his family



Dr. Keith Whitfield, president of UNLV



Dr. Archie Perry and the first Black CCSD Superintendent, Claude G. Perkins



UNLV White Coat Medical School student celebrates with her family.



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