

Las Vegas

# Black Image

JULY 2024

FREE

## 'Love' Tapped

**Lela Rochon and a new movie inspired by an acclaimed author**

**Inside** |

Doing Black business at a family reunion • AOC in Vegas!  
Andre Hines + the advocacy of art

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Las Vegas-Clark County  
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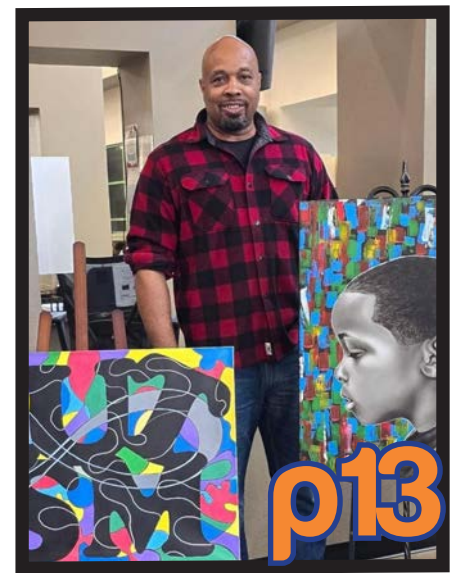
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# what's inside:



PEACE

## What do you see in the mirror?

By Kimberly Bailey-Tureaud



At different stages of our life's journey, we pause to look in the mirror and see our physical selves.

When we take that occasional glance, what might be overlooked is the point of our existence. Are you living the existence you had imagined at this point in your life?

The intensity of stress can be felt when we are traveling life's path to satisfy spectators, or fulfill a political agenda that makes others feel comfortable. We all have a divine order given by the blessing of life. Your stay on this mighty planet is temporary, and the impact you make should be driven by your deepest passions.

Time waits on no one, and you are the timekeeper of your progression or regression. The life you always imagined for yourself should consist of intention-

al movements made every day. Ultimately, it is your peace, your love, and your life that must be protected.

That man or woman in the mirror should be greeted with pride and a smile.

Yes, you DID IT! The walk toward fulfillment must be fearless. Courage is the greatest attribute in one's life. It might get lonely — but you came into this world on your own and you will leave it by yourself.

The greatest feat is stepping into your purpose. Your peace is mandatory. It's ALL up to you. Go inside your spirit and ask the questions that most define as selfish. But it is important to DO YOU. LIVE! LIVE! LIVE! By any means necessary.

*“We all have a divine order given by the blessing of life.”*

## Bracers For What Ails America

By Louie Overstreet

Some of the problems our nation is facing are mild enough to be dealt with by a glass of tonic water with a lemon wedge. Some can be handled with mixed drinks. Others are so severe that tequila shots are needed — and if not corrected, present clear and present dangers to America.

Those of you who read this column (or my ad nauseam Facebook posts) may recall that I suggested the establishment of federal commissions to develop recommendations for the following: America's future needs; crime, punishment, and justice; healthcare; global alliances; need for a constitutional convention; race, gender, and sexuality; repatriation of critical manufacturers

Sadly, my suggestions never generated the needed crowd of enthusiasts, and I was tabbed as a latter-day Chicken Little.

My column word count limit does not enable me to address each individual problem — thus, I can only list a select number of issues in each of the three categories without noting potential solutions.

Tonic water and lemon wedge size problems will not cause an upset stom-



ach to achieve: These problems can be addressed by providing incentives that can address the attitudes associated with education, equality, hate, religion, and tribalism.

Mixed drink size problems will cause a mile upset stomach to pull off:

These problems can be solved by our hopelessly di-

vided federal government passing laws to address affordable healthcare/Social Security, criminal justice system, dark money in politics, economic disparity, gerrymandering, immigration, and voting rights.

Trying to solve these problems will cause both an upset stomach and bad headache, as they will require constitutional amendments to solve. They include balanced federal budgets, the ERA, and term limits for members of Congress and Supreme Court justices.

If none of the three bracers I mentioned work for you, then America's nearly 250-year run will come to an unceremonious end.

P.S. Teetotalers: this is Vegas, so drink references are metaphors for the strength of effort needed to bring change or prevent things from happening.

## Cox Back-To-School Fair dates announced for 2024

Cox Las Vegas announced that its annual Cox Back-To-School Fairs will be held over four consecutive Saturdays beginning Saturday, July 13 and concluding on Saturday, August 3. The event is sponsored by Centennial Subaru.

The free community fairs are the longest running, most visible school-readiness event in Southern Nevada, serving as a one-stop resource for parents and students preparing for the 2024-25 school year.

### Cox Back-To-School Dates & Locations

- The Galleria at Sunset | Saturday,

July 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (1300 W. Sunset Road in Henderson)

- The Boulevard | Saturday, July 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (3528 S. Maryland Pkwy.)

- Downtown Summerlin | Saturday, July 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (2025 Festival Plaza Drive)

- Meadows Mall | Saturday, August 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (4300 Meadows Lane)

Representatives from several divisions of the Clark County School District will be at each event, along with more

continued on page 18 >>



Downtown Summerlin volunteer Dale Olehoffen

# Father figures large in our lives

It is HOT in July, and this month's edition of Las Vegas Black Image matches the temperature outside.

Lela Rochon has always been among our most gifted and beautiful performers, and our cover story celebrates her triumphant return to Hollywood – with a starring role in the forthcoming “Terry McMillan Presents: Tempted by Love.”

Elsewhere in this issue, brought to you by contributing writers and an executive publishing team working tirelessly to bring you the best:

- Students are coming up at Cox Communications' annual Back to School Fairs, which provide a wealth of resources for Clark County students preparing

for a successful school year

- We profile artist Andre Hines, who is using his creative gifts to give voice to people living with autism

- The Las Vegas Raiders bring Black-owned businesses to the forefront at their Juneteenth “Family Reunion”

- Checking in with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, who paid a visit to North Las Vegas for a conversation about affordable housing

- Our young people are doing it big! We celebrate their accomplishments at Wells Fargo's Junior Investment Club Competition, and congratulate Ross Grayson and the Las Vegas Chapter of

100 Black Men of America

These kinds of features are why Las Vegas Black Image exists – and why we're grateful for your loyal readership and support for Nevada's ONLY Black owned magazine with wide distribution in our state. Pick up your FREE issue at Albertsons, Vons, Mario's, and Whole Foods stores.

Rise,

*Charles Tureaud &  
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Charles Tureaud and Kimberly Bailey Tureaud

## Las Vegas Chapter of 100 Black Men of America Places 3rd in Junior Investment Club Competition

The Las Vegas Chapter of 100 Black Men of America placed third in the Junior Investment Club Competition, winning \$500 for their team during the Annual Conference of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. on June 13.

Each participating student was also surprised with \$200 to invest in their individual financial futures thanks to Wells Fargo, a longtime sponsor of 100 Black Men of America Annual Conference.

Wells Fargo also announced a \$600,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation, which will help expand the Junior Investment Club program to 30 markets across the country and towns nationwide.



Students from 100 Black Men of Las Vegas receive a grant for winning third place in the Junior Investment Club Competition at the 38th Annual Conference of 100 Black Men of America in Atlanta

# 'Love' Story



Lela Rochon



Garcelle Beauvais



Terry McMillan

With casting completed on “Terry McMillan Presents: Tempted By Love,” audiences can look ahead to an August premiere date.

Lifetime has completed casting on the previously untitled Terry McMillan Presents film, starring and executive produced by Garcelle Beauvais (“Black Girl Missing,” “Spider-Man: Homecoming,” “Coming to America”) as part of her extended relationship with the network.

The new original movie, “Terry McMillan Presents: Tempted By Love,” will also star Vaughn W. Hebron (“The Game” reboot, “King Richard,” “Tyler Perry’s The Oval”), who serves as co-producer, and Donna Biscoe (“The Supremes at Big Earl’s Cafe,” “Reasonable Doubt,” “Saints and Sinners”). Lela Rochon (“Any Given Sunday,” “The Family Business: New Orleans”) and Emmy Award-winner Loretta Devine, (“P-Valley,” “Family Reunion”) who both previously starred in “Waiting to Exhale,” which was adapted from a McMillan novel.

The film is set to debut on Aug. 17.

In “Terry McMillan Presents: Tempted by Love,” Ava (Beauvais), a world-class renowned chef living in Europe, rushes home to care for her elderly aunt (Biscoe)

in South Carolina after she suffers from a fall. Picked up from the long flight by Luke (Hebron), a handsome driver 20 years her junior, the pair feel an unexpected, yet passionate, connection. With a mutual interest in food, family and fun, Ava and Luke are the perfect recipe for love. Despite her feelings for him, Ava soon realizes that Luke still has so much to experience in life and she must decide what is best for her own career and relationships.

McMillan is best known for her novels adapted into smash films, including “How Stella Got Her Groove Back.” Terry McMillan Presents movies focus on the love and lives of African American women. “Terry McMillan Presents: Tempted by Love” is executive produced by D’Angela Proctor for Undaunted Content in association with GroupM Motion Entertainment. Terry McMillan and Garcelle Beauvais executive produce. Richard Foster and Chet Fenster are executive producers for GroupM Motion Entertainment. Taliah Breon directs from a script written by Tamara T. Gregory.



# GIVE ME FIVE

**New website helps you find support for your child's first five years.**

The quality of the education, health care and support your child receives in their first five years will affect them throughout their entire life. Nevada now offers a quick and easy way to find out which **programs, services and resources you can qualify for at no cost** to support your children prenatally through their early years.



**Give it a try! Visit [First5Nevada.org](https://www.First5Nevada.org) now and see what you qualify for.**



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NEVADA  
[First5Nevada.org](https://www.First5Nevada.org)

\* This campaign is supported with funding from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Child Care and Development Fund through the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) administered by the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Child Care and Development Program (Federal Grant #2021,G990232) and the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5) (Federal Grant #90TP099) administered by the Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development, subawarded to The Children's Cabinet. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Departments, Division, Office nor ACF.



# If you could push a single button to change something in the community, what would it be?



**Debra Garbutt**

I would like to see more affordable housing for the hardworking people of Las Vegas – and not for corporations to buy and rent for such outrageous amounts. It would be nice to see a cap on rents and make a law that more than 75% of the new housing builds be sold to residents that live, work, and will reside in the area. Also, put solar on all the new housing builds. Enhance the development in the true north and Historic Westside of the town. This happens for so many other sides of Las Vegas, making it affordable to live for all.



**Rickey Mickey Ormond**

To have developers and others understand that instead of all these future high-rises forecasted for the Historic Westside, we should invest in all the old buildings. The Town Tavern can be cleaned up and let the Westside look like the beautiful Historic Westside again – but better. Don't destroy it!



**Are Tee**

I would push a button that would break the pen that the red lines were drawn with.



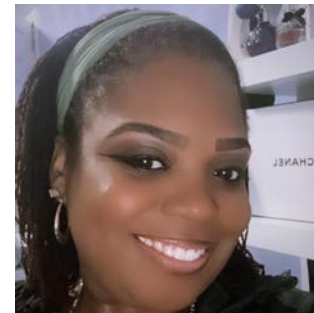
**Dell Ray Rhodes**

I would like it if young Black people could go out to have fun and not be afraid of being murdered or shot by their peers, friends, or law enforcement. I want them to just be able to enjoy themselves, laugh, and make it home to wake up the next morning – safe and happy.



**Glenda White**

I would like to see the homelessness situation corrected and for people to have a place to live and be safe.



**Janet Faith-Crosswhite**

I would like to see us collaborate more with like-minded people and for us to stop judging each other for trying to do better.



**Tina Rane**

I would love to push one button and see more places within the community for individuals with mental illness to receive assistance. It should be a place to get housing and resources.

**Joel Ealy**

I would like to see Jackson Street transformed into a Black Wall Street.

## These sounds will be hotter than July

**W**ant to tune in this summer? This month, concerts – whether it be musicians, comedians or DJs – will keep Las Vegas entertained.

**July 5:** DL Hughley @ Pearl Concert Theater at the Palms Hotel & Casino

**July 5, 6, 10, 12-13:** Jodeci: The Show, The After Party, The Vegas Residency @ The House of Blues in Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino

**July 5, 6, 12, 13, 19-20:** DJ Cassidy: Pass the Mic Live The Las Vegas Resi-

dency @ BAKKT Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino

**July 13:** Missy Elliott @ T-Mobile Arena

**July 20:** 39th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards @ The Orleans Arena

**July 26, 27:** Mariah Carey: The Celebration of MiMi Live in Las Vegas @ Dolby Theater Live at Park MGM

**July 27:** Comedian Gary Owen @ Pearl Concert Theater at Palms Casino Resort



# Under the Glittering Lights

## Las Vegas Raiders Celebrate Juneteenth



Raiders President Sandra Douglas Morgan joined by her fellow AKA sorors.



The Raiders celebrate Juneteenth with a Family Reunion event.

In celebration of Juneteenth, B.A.S.E.D. In Sports, an Employee Resource Group within the Las Vegas Raiders organization, hosted a “Family Reunion” on the indoor practice fields at Raiders Headquarters, InterMountain Health Performance Center.

The event also served as an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of celebrating diversity and fostering an inclusive workplace. In addition, the reunion allowed Black-owned local businesses including Servin 702 Shaved Ice, We in the Kitchen, Craving Creole, Braud Funnel Cake, Simply Puree to showcase their

respective cuisines and offerings. Other showcase vendors included Our Reflection – Toothbrush Co., Vibes DIY Studio, Tofu Tees, The Blade Barbershop, Pieces of Luv Candle Co., and Urban Chamber. Entertainment included performances by Alpha Kappa Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi.

B.A.S.E.D In Sports’ mission is to support diversity among Black employees and create an inclusive culture for employees at every level. Through engagement, B.A.S.E.D In Sports seeks opportunities to connect, develop, and support Black talent within the organization

and the broader Las Vegas community.

B.A.S.E.D., which stands for Black And Silver Efforts In Diversity, is one of several ERGs in place at the Raiders. In May, the Silver and Black celebrated Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a similar event.

The Raiders were built seven decades ago on the foundation of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and the formulation of these internal groups are part of that longstanding and ongoing commitment.

## Members of the community invited to free informational meetings at local libraries

Learn what the City Of Las Vegas can do for your neighborhood.

The City of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District are holding free informational meetings this summer at local libraries.

Residents are invited to learn about the city’s neighborhood services and programs, including neighborhood associations, housing safety and rehabilitation services, homeless services, the Keep

Las Vegas Beautiful program, and much more. Department of Neighborhood Services staff will be available to answer questions.

The meetings will be held in English and Spanish, and there will be refreshments to enjoy while supplies last.

- Wednesday, June 12, 1-2 p.m. at Sahara West Library, 9600 W. Sahara Ave.

- Wednesday, July 17, 1-2 p.m. at West Charleston Library, 6301 W. Charleston Blvd.

- Wednesday, July 24, 1-2 p.m. at Rainbow Library, 3150 N. Buffalo Drive.

- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 1-2 p.m. at West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

- Wednesday, Aug. 21, 1-2 p.m. at East Las Vegas Library, 2851 E. Bonanza

Road

For more information, call the City of Las Vegas Department of Neighborhood Services at (702) 229-6191 or email [shinson@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:shinson@lasvegasnevada.gov). Call (702) 507-6021 for information on other library programs or visit [TheLibraryDistrict.org](http://TheLibraryDistrict.org)

# BECOME A Court Appointed Special Advocate CASA VOLUNTEER



## Did you know?

- There are over 3,000 abused and neglected children in foster care in Clark County.
- Every abused and neglected child in foster care is required to have a CASA volunteer to advocate for their best interests.
- You can be that advocate who makes a huge difference in the life of an abused and neglected child by volunteering about two hours a week.

## We need your help!

[CASALasVegas.org](http://CASALasVegas.org)

702-455-CASA



# What can we learn from the Nevada Test Site?

By Claytee D. White

**M**y April visit to the former Nevada Test Site, now the Nevada National Security Site, introduced me to locations that took my breath away. First, I saw Sedan Crater, then the Apple II House and finally Frenchman's Flat among lots of other historical spaces.



Sedan Crater is 320 feet deep with a diameter of 1280 feet. Standing on the rim, beyond a barrier, it feels as if you are being pulled by this vast void that was created on July 6, 1962 as part of Operation Plowshare. This hole is scary. It is the largest human-made crater in the United States and is listed on the Nation-

al Register of Historic Places. This, of course, was an underground test. Miners were employed to plant these devices into the earth using complicated technology. Many Blacks from the Westside worked as miners drilling tunnels and holes and constructing shafts. The dangerous part seemed to have been the re-entry tunnels dug to retrieve equipment after nuclear blasts.

The most fascinating stop on our tour was the Apple II House. It is a two-story structure made of wood and would have been right at home where I grew up in rural North Carolina. Approaching it down a short lane, this typical looking house was quietly elegant but completely bare. No paint remained. The chimney grew up from the ground to a few feet above the roof line. Each room had windows and there was a back and a front door but you

are not welcome to enter because all the innards were in disarray. Apple House was 7,500 feet from ground zero of the 1955 Apple 2 test. This house was built in an effort to determine the seismic effects of the atomic test on a typical home. The explosion was 29 kilotons – and this house still stands.

One of our final stops was Frenchman's Flat, where the first test took place in January 1951. On December 18, 1950, President Harry Truman authorized the establishment of a 680 square-mile portion of the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range as the Nevada Proving Ground. In 1955, this area became the Nevada Test Site. And today it's the NNSS. Fourteen above-ground nuclear tests were conducted at Frenchman Flat. That January 1951 test broke storefront windows in Las Vegas. Today, this old test site has evolved to

include subcritical experiments and other Stockpile Stewardship programs designed to ensure the nation's remaining nuclear weapons remain safe, secure, and effective without full-scale nuclear testing. In addition, the emergence of global and homeland security threats has resulted in a further shift in the NNSS' mission toward planning, experimentation and training to prevent and counter those threats."

To learn more about this history and about future opportunities, take a tour and conduct some research at the Atomic Museum, which "uses lessons of the past and present to better understand the extent and effect of nuclear testing on worldwide nuclear deterrence and geopolitical history."

Is this still an industry where Blacks can play a role? Do Blacks want a role?

## Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Highlights President's Actions to Lower Housing Costs

**R**epresentative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez visited Nevada to highlight President Biden's actions to lower housing costs and support renters and homebuyers. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez met with Graciela Rodriguez, a local renter, and Michelle Merced, a Las Vegas housing advocate, in North Las Vegas, where corporate landlords have bought hundreds of homes and raised housing costs on families.

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez highlighted the contrast between President Biden's work to address rising housing costs and hold corporations accountable for rent gouging by cracking down on corporate landlords and private equity firms, and Donald Trump's housing plans, which would drive up rental prices and put the dream of homeownership out of reach for so many families.

"When it comes to housing, who we elect into office matters: While President Biden is taking action to bring down prices and make sure working families can find an affordable home, Donald Trump would actually spike costs on our families," said Ocasio-Cortez. "If elected, Trump will

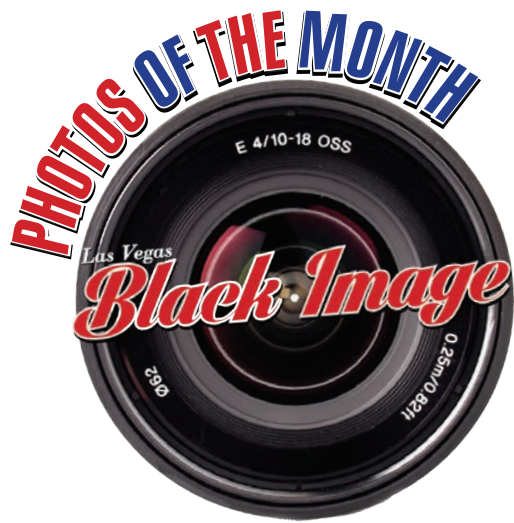
side with the same corporations who are buying up single-family homes in our neighborhoods and raising the costs of rent, but Joe Biden is taking them on – cracking down on rent gouging and holding corporations accountable."

In March, President Biden visited Las Vegas to outline his agenda to bring down the cost of housing and address the shortage of affordable homes that Donald Trump's failed policies helped create. In Nevada, President Biden has invested over \$1 billion towards affordable housing to keep homeowners and renters in their homes, and his aggressive plan would provide \$10,000 for first-time homebuyers and \$25,000 for first-generation homebuyers.

Meanwhile, Trump's record on housing is atrocious: He tried to gut rental assistance programs that make housing more affordable. He tried to triple rents on the poorest Americans in federally subsidized housing – including low-wage workers, the elderly, and people with disabilities – putting nearly one million children at risk of homelessness.



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez talks to a North Las Vegas resident.



Samone Davis, Dr. Lawrence Weekly, Mrs. Collins, Lou Collins, Sheila Collins at Juneteenth celebration.



Bruce Milam Jr., Nachele Milam, and Brian Hawkins Sr.



Austin Rankin from Cram Middle School in Las Vegas making his Broadway debut in the "MJ The Musical"



Cynthia Wilson and her husband at the Henderson Pavilion's Juneteenth event.



DJ Benzo Fame spinning the sounds on KCEP 88.1 FM classic Thursdays.



Sheneka Gunn and Katina Wilson on the road to San Diego



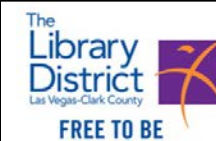
North Las Vegas Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown and Las Vegas mayoral candidate Shelley Berkley celebrating Juneteenth



The Shelton Family in New York, at the Broadway production of Aladdin



The KCEP 88.1 FM's Wake Up Squad at the Juneteenth Celebration at Craig Ranch Park



### 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.

Visit [www.thelibrarydistrict.org/about/](http://www.thelibrarydistrict.org/about/) for bid opportunities and requests for proposals. For general information on purchasing and contracts, call 702-507-6200. □

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# Seen Maker

Artist Andre Hines' deeply personal and extraordinarily thoughtful work is drawing notice in Las Vegas and beyond.

Andre Hines arrived in Las Vegas in 2003, having worked in an array of professional capacities as a graphic designer and receiving his associates degree in architecture. His natural gift as an artist is now being more widely recognized.

"I grew up loving art and always drew and stretched images as a child and gradually started to draw more," says Hines, who grew up in north Chicago.

Following Chicago artists like Gerald Griffin and Kevin A. Williams (popularly known as WAK), Hines was inspired when he got a chance to meet WAK at the Black Women's Expo in Chicago, where he had some of his work on display. "It was really affirming to have WAK look at my work," Hines reflects. According to Hines the artist WAK said to him, "Man, you need to really get your art out there to the marketplace."

Hines gradually built his portfolio and began working as a graphic designer with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority – designing their merchandise. He also received an opportunity to take some of his work to the annual Trumpet Awards, where he met acclaimed



Andre Hines

artist Annie Lee. She invited Hines to work alongside her at her own Vegas gallery, where he was further ex-

posed to the business of art.

Advocacy and working with young people who are interested in art have always been passions for Hines, now 56. One of his most recent works, "Seeing Through the Eyes of Autism," looks at how neurodivergent people may view their life's journey.

"I was inspired to do these art pieces because my neighbor who is a therapist and we would talk a lot about her boys who are both autistic," he said. "She really has a story and testimony that is so powerful. Most people might just have one child dealing with autism, but both of her boys are autistic. So, one of the pieces is a young boy wearing glasses and the lens of the glasses are cracked in the painting. You see the eyes in the painting looking through the cracked lens viewing the world around him. I made the glasses in many colors because colors are associated with autism and those who view the art piece can only imagine how the young child sees the world around him – a different perspective trying to maneuver through life."

For more, visit [AHinesCollection.com](http://AHinesCollection.com)

## Biden-Harris *delivers* for **BLACK NEVADANS**

- Created 2.6 million jobs for Black Americans and achieved the lowest unemployment rate.
  - Under Trump, Black unemployment skyrocketed.
- Made record investments in Black small businesses—leading to the fastest rate of Black small business growth in 30 years.
  - Trump's botched COVID response disproportionately left Black-owned businesses shuttered.
- Insulin is capped at \$35 per month for over 22,000 Nevada seniors.
  - When Trump was President, Black uninsured rates skyrocketed.

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# Hotter than July!

By Craig Knight

We're more than half-way through 2024, with July officially starting the third quarter in the business world. This month begins in earnest with the Fourth of July, which is often referred to as Independence Day. America's independence from the British Empire is commemorated on this federal holiday. It has changed throughout the previous 248 years into a broader expres-



sion of pride and patriotism.

It is a common misconception that the delegates decided to pursue independence on July 2, 1776. The National Archives state that the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4, 1776, albeit with significant changes. On July 4, however, only two delegates — secretary Charles Thompson and president John Hancock — signed the agreement. Hancock wrote first, creating the expression “put your John Hancock on ” — which means to sign something with a bold, huge script.

Delegates finally started signing the paper on August 2, 1776. John Adams pre-

dicted that July 2 would be the day for the annual celebration of independence. Adams predicted in a letter to his wife Abigail that the festivities would feature sports, bonfires, parades, and fireworks — many of which are still common Fourth of July traditions today.

The Summer Olympics in Paris is also noteworthy! I'm excited to watch our men and women compete internationally, especially in sports I love to watch — basketball (where four Las Vegas Aces represent the women's team), track and field, gymnastics, diving, swimming, and more! Let's go!

(Speaking of sports, congratulations to the NBA world champion Boston Celt-

ics NBA World Champions and Finals MVP Jaylen Brown.)

Several awareness months fall in July, such as: National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, Disability Pride Month, Sarcoma and Bone Cancer Awareness Month, National Ice Cream Month, and National Grilling Month — for just a few examples.

As we celebrate everything there is to do this month, let's do it responsibly! Until the next Knight Moves, educate yourself and share the knowledge with others. God bless you!

*As we celebrate everything there is to do this month, let's do it responsibly!*

BLACK EXCELLENCE: AVERY FORD, M.D.

## In his practice, medicine is more than a healing

Avery Ford, M.D. received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine, where he graduated with distinction as a Health Justice Scholar. He earned a master's degree in Medical Health Sciences from Touro University Nevada and bachelor's degrees in both Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology and Spanish with a Minor in Leadership from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

From advocating for healthcare bills to legislators in our nation's capital to tackling health disparities via community outreach events and screenings, Dr. Ford works to show up for patients in and outside of his clinical duties. As a Black and Latino physician, he understands the unique perspectives of historically marginalized populations and has translated that understanding into strategizing with pipeline programs through the AAMC and NMA Action Collaborative and founding the Black Men in White Coats chapter at Georgetown. He also served as the Early Career Physicians Section



Avery Ford, M.D.

co-chair for the Medical Society of DC to encourage engagement and spearhead professional development opportunities for rising physicians. To him, donning a white coat as a minority in medicine is an opportunity

to address common health burdens as an uncommon resource.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed, having earned scholarships and support from national stakeholders like Johnson & Johnson, National Medical Fellowships, the United Health Foundation, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Student National Medical Association as well as the District of Columbia Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and Center for Health Equity. Dr. Ford is stepping into a dual role of emerging clinician and patient advocate as an incoming emergency medicine resident at University of Central Florida.

Dr. Ford values a “lift while you climb” mindset and hopes to advance and expand diversity in medicine as a scholar and forward thinker. Aside from academics, Avery enjoys live music, the outdoors, and trying his hand at new recipes.

# Protecting mental health in BIPOC communities

By Dr. Ellen Brown

**H**ave you ever come across Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month? During regular searches for engaging topics, I came upon this important observance. You may already be familiar with it, or it could be a lesser-known fact. Regardless, I found it intriguing and immediately delved into learning more about this month — named in honor of the late African-American author, journalist, and teacher who worked



tirelessly as a mental health advocate and wrote three bestsellers on the topic.

As for the “minority” population taking front and center, it suggests that the discussion revolves around issues and challenges that disproportionately affect people of color. This is true, but the research of National Alliance on Mental Illness shows it is more complex than singling out specific groups of people by ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic factors.

Bebe Moore Campbell passed away in 2006 at the age of 56. She was known as a literary trailblazer whose fiction writing topics often focused on the impact of mental health, racism, culture, and community. One of her first publications was

written in 1992, “Your Blues Ain’t Like Mine” — and another, “72 Hour Hold,” came in 1995. These novels are examples of her compelling messages, which told stories of modern-day life in settings that portray the continuing stress and pain that has sometimes defined Black life in America.

Why is this important? One research study suggests that “the adult Black community is 20% more likely to experience mental health problems.”

A search for Black psychiatrists and mental health professionals in Las Vegas resulted in a significant number of men and women educated, prepared, and available to serve our community. If ever there was a time to seek and find help, it

is now. Here are a few resources:

Black and African American Psychiatrists in Las Vegas: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/psychiatrists/nv/las-vegas?category=african-american>

NAMI works to educate, support, advocate, listen and lead to improve the lives of people with mental illness and their loved ones: <https://www.nami.org/about-mental-illness/warning-signs-and-symptoms/>

Call the NAMI HelpLine at (800) 950-6264, text “helpline” to 62640, or chat online. In a crisis, call or text 988.

*Dr. Ellen Brown encourages your responses to topics in the column. You can send them to [ebrown.nci@gmail.com](mailto:ebrown.nci@gmail.com)*

*As for the “minority” population taking front and center, it suggests that the discussion revolves around issues and challenges that disproportionately affect people of color.*

HEALTHIER YOU

## Understanding uterine fibroids in Black women

By Dr. Marguerite Brathwaite OB-GYN

**T**he month of July is Fibroid Awareness Month. As African-American women, we are accustomed to hearing many of our friends, family members and others speak about having uterine fibroids or knowing someone who is suffering from them.

It is no secret that African-American



women suffer disproportionately, yet we understand little about what causes this disparity.

Uterine fibroids, also termed leiomyomas or myomas, are the most common benign gynecologic tumors; ultrasound evidence shows that more than 80% of African-American women and approximately 70% of white women will have uterine fibroids by age 50. However, because only 20% to 50% of all women with fibroids experience related symptoms, and because screening for fibroids is not routinely per-

formed, the true incidence is difficult to ascertain.

For women in their 40s and 50s, abnormal bleeding is the most common reason to seek gynecologic consultation, and fibroids are one of the most common causes of this symptom. Pelvic pain, another common reason for gynecologic consultation, is a symptom often associated with fibroids.

These symptoms markedly alter the quality of life and reproductive health in affected women. Treatment options include many alternatives to hysterectomy, includ-

ing medical therapies, minimally invasive surgery, uterine artery embolization, and magnetic resonance — guided focused ultrasound surgery. Hysterectomy, however, remains the most common intervention, and in the United States, fibroids are the leading indication for hysterectomies.

*It is important that all women have regular healthcare checkups. Make your appointment today by calling Innovative Women’s Care at (702) 413-7740 or visit us at 7650 West Sahara Ave. Suite 100 in Las Vegas.*

*It is no secret that African-American women suffer disproportionately, yet we understand little about what causes this disparity.*



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# Overcoming Barriers to African-American homeownership

By Kimberly Smith

**H**omeownership has long been a cornerstone of the American Dream, representing stability and wealth building. However, African-Americans face unique challenges that contribute to lower homeownership rates compared to other ethnicities. Understanding and addressing these barriers is essential to bridging the wealth gap and empowering our communities.



is the legacy of redlining and discriminatory lending practices that have historically excluded African-Americans from homeownership opportunities. Even today, African-American buyers often face higher interest rates and less favorable loan terms. This systemic racism has long-lasting effects — making it harder for African-Americans to build intergenerational wealth.

## Economic Disparities

Economic inequalities, including lower average incomes and higher unemployment rates, also play a crucial role. These disparities mean that African-Americans often have less savings for down payments and are more likely to struggle with debt — making it difficult to qualify for mortgages.

## Historical Discrimination and Systemic Racism

One of the most significant factors

## Lack of Financial Literacy and Education

Financial literacy is another critical issue. Many African-Americans may not have access to the necessary education about the home buying process, financial planning, and credit management. This lack of knowledge can lead to misunderstandings about affordability and eligibility for home loans.

## Steps Toward Change

Despite these challenges, there are ways to increase African-American homeownership. Promoting financial literacy through community programs can equip potential buyers with the knowledge they need. Additionally, advocating for fair lending practices and supporting policies that aim to close the racial wealth gap can create more equi-

table opportunities.

By addressing these barriers head-on, we can help more African-Americans achieve homeownership, thereby fostering financial stability and closing the wealth gap. With the right guidance and resources, we can turn the tide and create lasting change for future generations.

As a broker salesperson, I pride myself with educating my clients throughout the process to make sure it's a pleasurable experience. There are down payment assistance programs and dollars available for those that qualify.

*Homeownership is possible! Please call me, the Queen of Real Estate! Kimberly Smith | 702-291-7098 | www.kimberlysmith.realtor | NV.Lic. No. BS.146388*

<< continued from page 4

than 30 community agencies and organizations. Free or low-cost immunizations will be offered by Smith's and First-Per-

son Care Clinic on site July 20 at The Boulevard and August 3 at Meadows Mall.



Galleria volunteers Isabel Haro, Kayla Kawtiash, Elsa Martinez, and Omar Gaxiola.



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