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Ribbons Rock The Runway

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October 8 - October 14, 2022 57th Year Volume 24 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

WBOK Launches New Program to Uplift Residents in Tough Times

A photograph of three people standing in front of a sign that reads "WBOK 1230 AM MEDIA CO". On the left is a woman with dark hair wearing a bright blue blazer. In the center is a man with a shaved head wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie. On the right is a woman with short grey hair wearing a black dress with a large yellow sunflower pattern. They are all smiling at the camera.

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A small portrait of a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a white collared shirt.

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Fifth Annual
National Fried
Chicken Festival

A small photograph of a man in a blue shirt eating a piece of fried chicken.

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WBOK Launches New Program to Uplift Residents in Tough Times

Story and Photos By
Samantha Jackson
Data News Weekly Contributor

Veteran New Orleans Broadcasters Sally-Ann Roberts and Monica Pierre have teamed up to return to the airwaves with a new morning show: “Your Power Is On” on WBOK 1230 AM. The show airs on Fridays at 9 a.m. and highlights “positivity, encouragement, and uplifting one another.” For WBOK this new segment is a new style of broadcast by introducing motivational talk. The station currently has a variety of formats ranging from “The Sports Report with Reggie Flood,” “The Front Porch with Gralen Banks,” and “The Reality Check with Gerod Stevens.”

Roberts retired from WWL-TV’s Eyewitness Morning News in 2018, and after 40 years in broadcasting, which saw her become one of New Orleans most adored and respected television journalists. The former television anchor returned to WBOK, the city’s only Black-owned radio station in 2021 to pilot “The Good Morning Show.”

“I hope that this show will encourage people, I want people to recognize the power that they have,” Roberts said. “You don’t have to be an elected official – rich. You just have to be available and to see people, and then just smile, a smile can do so much. It’s paying attention to things that are going on around you, and giving as you feel led to give,” Roberts said.

Alongside Roberts is Monica Pierre, an Emmy-Award Winning Journalist, author, speaker, entrepreneur, and Professor-of-Practice at Xavier University of Louisiana. The former WWL-Radio host has a career that has spanned over 40 years in journalism and public relations. The motivational



Bishop Lester Love joins Monica Pierre and Sally-Ann Roberts at the WBOK station for the live broadcast of “Your Power is On.”

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"Your Power is On Hosts" Sally-Ann Roberts and Monica Pierre host their new Friday mornings show on WBOK 1230 AM at 9 am.

speaker continues to innovate in new formats. She co-hosted the entertainment special "Ya Mama N'em," which won the 2020 Suncoast Regional Emmy Award.

"The power to recognize that they have it and that whatever is getting them angry, upset, whatever they are being called to do, that they have enough light in them to make it happen," Pierre said about what she hopes the show will inspire listeners to pursue. "And it doesn't have to be the biggest thing, but it has to be something that really is aligned with their purpose," Pierre added.

"Your Power Is On" first episode debuted on Sept. 9th and Pierre and Roberts invite callers to "Tell me something good," a segment where



Veteran broadcasters Monica Pierre and Sally-Ann Roberts entertain listeners with a viral TikTok dance during a break in the morning show that launched in September.



Over the span of her decades long career, Sally-Ann Roberts received numerous awards for her work as a television journalist and community service.

listeners can recognize people in the community and share good news. Special guest Bishop Lester Love joined Roberts and Pierre where they listened and talked to callers, shared prayers and inspirational words, and Love discussed walking in purpose.

The segment is a great change of pace for the station because of its focus on positive news, said Schuyler Williams, the General Manager of WBOK.

"Every other show we do at the radio station is about informing people about current events, topics that can trigger, that can make them angry or sad, all of those things because that's what the news is right now," Williams said. "This show is all about accentuating the positive, bringing people into a happier place, a more joyful place, a more supportive place. It is very much different from the other things we have going on, even the fun shows. Because there's no part of it that is political or about current events," Williams added.

Given recent developments in the city and across the country, Williams said she believes that "Your Power Is On" is a bright light shining in a dark time. This show will allow people to take a break from the sometimes-depressing news, allowing listeners to take some time to feel grateful for the things they have and the people around them.

"Sitting around waiting for someone else to do it, live that purpose, live their dream, is not the best way to go, and they can do it, no more waiting around, get going," Pierre said.

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Let's Get Ready To
VOTE

Election Day is November 8th

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and look for your upcoming
special election issues!

Paint Tchoup

Art Mural Soiree Set to Support Completion of the Tchoupitoulas Floodwall Mural

Data News Staff Edited Report

On Saturday, October 8, 2022, the New Orleans community is invited to come out to learn more about and support the completion of the Tchoupitoulas Floodwall Mural. The event will take place at NOLA Brewing at 3001 Tchoupitoulas Street from 6pm-9pm.

The evening will include performances by Meschiya Lake & Ben Polcer at 6:30pm followed by Lil Rascals Brass Band Reunion at 8pm; food & drink; and a raffle. General admission tickets are free though registration through Eventbrite is suggested. VIP tickets, including seating for two, two beer tickets, and one art print are available for \$50.

All proceeds from the event will support work on the Tchoupitoulas Floodwall Mural by New Orleans International Muralists under the artistic direction of Muralist Jamar Pierre.

ABOUT THE TCHOUPITOULAS FLOODWALL MURAL PROJECT: New Orleans International Muralists (NOIM) is creating Louisiana's longest mural along the Tchoupitoulas Street Floodwall. Under the artistic direction of renowned New Orleans Artist Jamar Pierre, NOIM will paint the one mile stretch of floodwall with murals that depict New Orleans' vibrant history and culture. The paintings that will cover the seven blocks of floodwall between Josephine and 9th Streets will be culturally significant, educational in nature, and historically relevant. This neighborhood beautification project will brighten the streetscape of the Tchoupitoulas corridor, further develop the city's artistic workforce, create mentorship opportunities, and bring diverse groups of people together to celebrate New Orleans' history with vivid murals.

About The Artist: Jamar Pierre is a New Orleans artist with strong ties to the city he calls home. As a painter, muralist, and educator Pierre loves contrasting urban and rural environments while merging contemporary folk art and landscapes with his early experience in the 1980s street art scene. He paints to bring conversations about his culture, traditions, the history of his city, and the relationship with the land to life. He finds inspiration in the Mississippi River, Gulf of Mexico, swamplands, and bay-



Jamar Pierre is a visual artist from the City of New Orleans who travels around the globe showcasing work that tells of the rich history of the Crescent City. Presently, he is working on the Tchoupitoulas Floodwall Mural, that tells the story of 300 years of New Orleans history.



ous just as he does in the sights, sounds, tastes, and aromas of the neighborhoods of New Orleans. While much of Pierre's work starts small on paper and canvas, his true passion is the creation of large-scale murals.

With more than twenty years of professional visual art experience, Pierre has created exquisite masterpieces for

fine art exhibits both stateside and internationally in countries such as Iceland, Canada, and Costa Rica. His painting, "Resilience" – the official artwork of the New Orleans Tricentennial Celebration, was displayed in the Library of Congress for the duration of 2018. He has also been recognized by both the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Institute and the Na-

tional Public Radio Broadcasting Group for his contributions to fine art. Pierre's passion for cultural advocacy and commitment drives his work. Pierre's murals, and his commitment to honoring the contributions of people of color to our community can be seen locally at Bywater Art Garden, Tremé Center, St. Peter Claver Church, and Cohen College Prep.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Ribbons Rock The Runway



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Photographs by:
Dotcommer for Mambomundo

It was a night of celebrating and uplifting cancer warriors by bringing together cancer survivors, their families, supporters, and professional models to walk the runway representing the ribbon colors of nineteen women's cancers. That's exactly what "You Night," a sisterhood comprised of hundreds of women in the Greater New Orleans community set out to do at its annual gala event.

The two-hour high-energy runway show was held at The Sugar Mill, where the procession of models took to a five hundred footlong runway stage. The models were a combination of professional models represented by Positive Image Modeling, Chic Nouvelle Agency, ABOUTFACES Model & Talent Management and New Orleans Fashion Week. Joining the models on the catwalk were 125 cancer survivors who participated in You Night's "Runway Empowerment Program" a nine-month program of empowerment, self-care, and therapeutic activities, which culminate with a runway fashion show. The amazing fashion presentation featured models mostly wearing fashionable outfits of their own choices, but also included fashions provided by Maiya's Boutique, Gwen's Bridal, Pedram Couture, Designer Kristine Pichon, De'Andre Beverly, Nina Saint Marina, Adrianna Moore, and others. An added twist to the evening's event was the attempt to break a Guinness World Record for having the greatest number of models in a runway show currently held by a group in Madrid, Spain with 421 models. With the Guinness World Record representative present to officiate and certify the count the event was crowned with the honor of breaking the current record by having a total of 430 models slay the runway.



Group of cancer survivors and supports wearing orange representing Leukemia/Blood Cancer.



Model Saran Bynum wearing purple representing Hodgkin's Lymphoma Cancer.



Model Italia Moore wearing Designer Nina Cheffen Melton.



Model Tiaundra Davis in white wearing to represent Lung cancer. Designer: Gwen Hawkins.



Leslie Legania-Shelby of Positive Image Modeling.



Models posing on runway in lavender representing all cancer types and lime green representing Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Cancer.



Designer Nina Cheffen Melton takes to the runway in royal blue representing colorectal cancer.



Guinness World Record Officer.



Tracee Dundas wearing white sequins jumpsuit by Designer Gwen Hawkins.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Krewe de Pink Fundraiser in Support of Breast Cancer Research

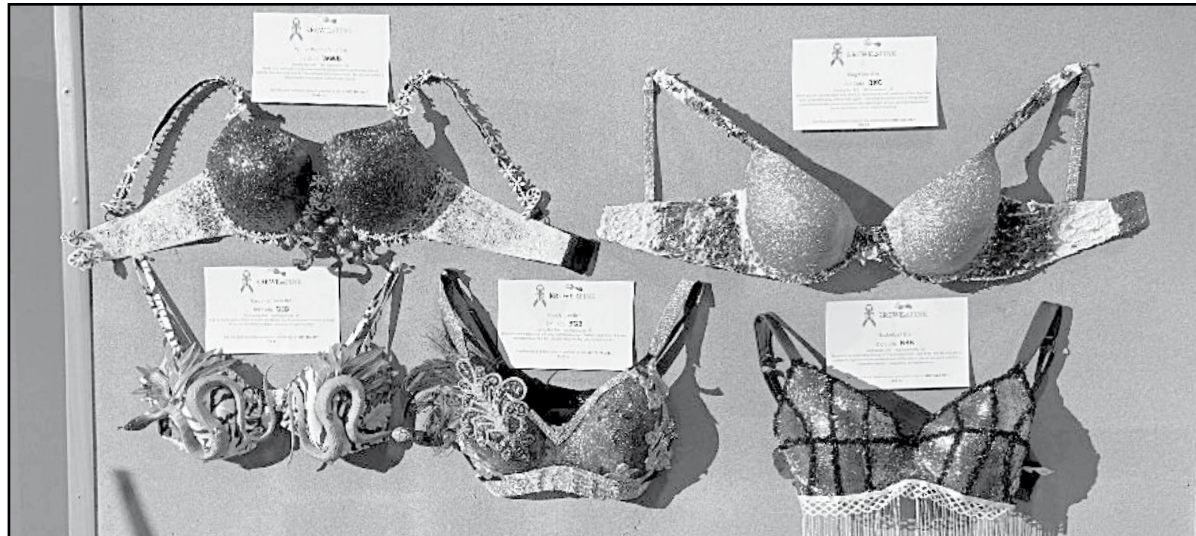
Story and Photos By
Kennedy Wells
Data News Weekly Contributor

New Orleans kicked off National Breast Cancer Awareness Month as only the Mardi Gras city could with a Krewe Prom dedicated to fighting against this prevalent disease.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer in American women, and about 290,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women within the year 2022," said Dr. Wanda Henderson-Thomas, a physician at Ochsner LSU Health, Shreveport.

While breast cancer affects all women, Black women are twice as likely to have a more aggressive form of the disease and are 30-percent more likely to die from it, according to 2022 data from the American Cancer Society.

Local organizations are using the month of October for fundraising for breast cancer research efforts across the city. The Krewe



Customized bras are on display during the silent auction at the prom on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022.

de Pink was founded in 2011 by Gregory Cantrell as a nonprofit, volunteer organization that hosts cancer research support events throughout the year.

"Krewe de Pink is all about having fun but making sure we're still raising that money so that researchers can do what they need to," said

Dawn Arevalo, the Chair of the Krewe de Pink Prom Committee.

Krewe de Pink held its annual Krewe de Pink Prom on Saturday, Oct. 8th at 7 p.m. at the Jung Hotel. The prom was an opportunity for community members to dance, party, and raise money for breast cancer research. Eventgoers were

dressed in pink from head to toe. Pink headdresses, pink dresses, and even pink suits were seen at every turn.

"I want to make sure that there is enough funding and opportunities for survivors to party and enjoy life as a result of what they've been through. It is important to

me to support the cause by doing what I'm good at [performing], to make sure people have awareness about breast cancer," said Kimberly Turk, the live singer for the prom.

The prom featured two main fundraising events: the raffle and the silent auction. The ballroom was filled with auction items for attendees to bid on. Auction items included custom decorated bras, paintings of fruit, a neon sign, a picnic basket, and even a Fall charcuterie bin. By the end of the night, the silent auction raised over \$5,804 for breast cancer research.

Any prom would not have been complete without the crowning of a king and queen. The king and queen were not decided by votes but rather by the amount of raffle tickets sold. The 2022 Prom King Chris Lightfoot submitted 115 raffle tickets and 2022 Prom Queen Jen Bourgeois submitted 118 tick-

**Newsmaker, Continued
on page 7.**

Queens on Thrones

A Season of Change



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

This weekend, I sat at the pool feeling the cool breeze blowing against my cheekbones with ease while my ear drums danced to the

sounds of the trees telling tales on a California windy day. I was suddenly reminded of the changing of the season as the birds flew in harmony together across the morning sky.

It's time to prepare for a new season. Letting go of past traumas and people we seem to carry along with us, year after year. It's time to let go of thinking you have to have all the answers and need to journey all alone when there are strong women who are making happiness a priority because life is what you make of it and

**Queens on Thrones,
Continued on page 7.**

State & Local News

InspireNOLA Charter Schools Launches Citywide Youth Initiative

A student-led initiative focuses on decreasing gun violence across the city

New Orleans Agenda

NEW ORLEANS — InspireNOLA Charter Schools, launches NOLALove, a citywide call-to-action that advocates for our youth by providing services focused on academic excellence, mental health awareness, family wellness, and community service to transform the outcomes of today's youth.

Recent reports suggest that youth in New Orleans are at the forefront of the current violent crime wave that has inflicted our city. NOLALove is our response to empowering our youth so that they can advocate for themselves and one another on academically, socially, and emotionally centered endeavors and can improve their livelihood inside and outside the classroom.

"While InspireNOLA is spearheading NOLALove, this is an accountability call to everyone in the city to join us in connecting and improving the lives of New Orleans



youth," said InspireNOLA CEO Jamar McKneeley. "Time and time again, we've seen community initiatives targeted at the youth, but what about initiatives that rally behind our youth—that gives them the power to be their own advocate. Through NOLALove, we are here to build a supportive environment while being held accountable to listen, learn and act on meeting the youths' needs beyond the classroom and address their own needs to resolve how they might handle day-to-day life, including conflict resolution."

NOLALove will include a comprehensive program bringing schools, community groups, and stakeholders together over a series of recurring events to promote

non-violence, academic success, high expectations, and community involvement. It is unlike any other community program and serves as a bridge between the community and today's youth.

"For me, NOLALove is a chance for us to show that when we can come together and love one another while protecting all students and giving them a chance to succeed and live a fair life," said Fourth-Grade Student Council President at McDonogh 42, Lewis Thompson.

In order to bring the youth of the New Orleans community together, NOLALove will host a student rally for youth on October 12, 2022. 5,000 students from various schools throughout New Orleans will attend and hear from dynamic speakers including Inky Johnson, Raynell "Supa" Steward, Gregoire Tillery, Councilmembers Oliver Thomas and Freddie King, District Attorney Jason Williams and more. More details will be forthcoming regarding other events and programming.

Fifth Annual National Fried Chicken Festival Attracts Over 107,000 Attendees to New Orleans Lakefront

Data News Staff Edited Report

Now in its fifth year, the National Fried Chicken Festival (FCF) presented by Raising Cane's attracted 107,423 attendees to its new location along the New Orleans Lakefront. This year's event attracted over 62,000 attendees on Saturday, October 1st, and nearly 46,000 visitors on Sunday, October 2nd.

"We were incredibly proud to bring this festival to the New Orleans Lakefront in partnership with the Lakefront Management Authority, and have everyone embrace our new location, restaurants, musicians, and experiences," said Cleveland Spears, III, President and CEO of the Spears Group and FCF Executive Producer. "Over the past two days, 35 independently owned restaurants showcased their famous dishes on a national stage. We supported local musicians and various community organizations, including Son of a Saint, through our non-profit Community Corner presented by Capital One and Merchant Marketplace presented by New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund (NOTCF). We thank everyone for the outpouring of support and love and are already looking forward to 2023."



After a two-year hiatus, FCF returned with one of its most diverse food lineups to date, with returning local favorites and previous year's award-winners, including Gus's World-Famous Fried Chicken, and nationally renowned restaurants like Josephine's Kitchen from Mississippi, Pollo from Kentucky, Stuff'd from Texas, KOK Wings & Things from Lafayette, and more. With 35+



Along with great food there was amazing entertainment on hand that included legendary Producer and DJ Mannie Fresh.

participating restaurants, FCF 2022 featured a diverse range of food offerings, including vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options. Additionally, the festival featured Cane's Square, the inaugural Custom Car Showcase curated by Hot Cars TV and Drive New Orleans, non-profit Community Corner presented by Capital One, Merchant Marketplace presented by New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund, Kids Coop and Family Zone presented by New Schools for New Orleans, two luxurious VIP Lounges, including the Royalty Lounge presented by Crown Royal and the Chicken and Bubbles Lounge presented by Chandon, and a host of other experiences over the fall weekend.

The festival concluded with the 2022 Culinary Icon Award presentation to Andre' Prince Jeffries, the owner of the award-winning restaurant Prince's Hot Chicken, known as the original Nashville Hot Chicken. Additionally, bragging rights for this year's Best Fried Chicken were awarded to Gus's World-Famous Fried Chicken and Best Use of Chicken in a Dish Award Recipient, Bonafried. Rounding out the two-day celebration were performances from The Soul Rebels, Mannie Fresh, Big Sam's Funky Nation, Flow Tribe, Shamarr Allen, and Chris Ardoin.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 6.

ets. The raffle raised \$2,825 for breast cancer awareness.

The money from this event goes directly to researchers in the cancer field. Krewe de Pink works closely with Tulane University's Cancer Research Center.

"They [researchers] are able to take the money that we donate to them because it is unrestricted money and use it to stop-gap those things that grants don't cover. This is money they can use to help progress their research and we've seen them make some pretty

big strides," Arevalo said.

Eventgoers said how important this cause was to their hearts and that raising awareness and money for research is necessary.

"I have friends and family members who've lost people to breast cancer. A good friend of mine from grade school lost a

parent to breast cancer recently. Overall, it's a very important cause to be able to raise funds and have it actually go to helping cancer research. That's what I love about this organization," said Danielle Tanguis, who said she was a "faithful" Krewe de Pink prom attendee.

Queens on Thrones, Continued from page 6.

not what your boss may think.

It's time to stop thinking you are fat and not do anything about it. It's time to stop eating meat. It's time to stop drinking dairy and it's time to let go of the alcohol because it's full of sugar. It's time to rise above it all and love you more by starting to

balance your mind, body, and soul, so that in this next season your relationships, your family, your health, your spiritual life, and your finances will be in order.

In this new season, you should be renewing yourself, creating quiet time to reflect on your situation, your desires and your ideals. Start something new, so you won't have

to feel the chaos within. Deal with the problems that have been limiting your life. Do not take this time for granted for it is a new season to change the course of your destiny as you evolve into a stronger woman who can make better choices.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com.



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Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

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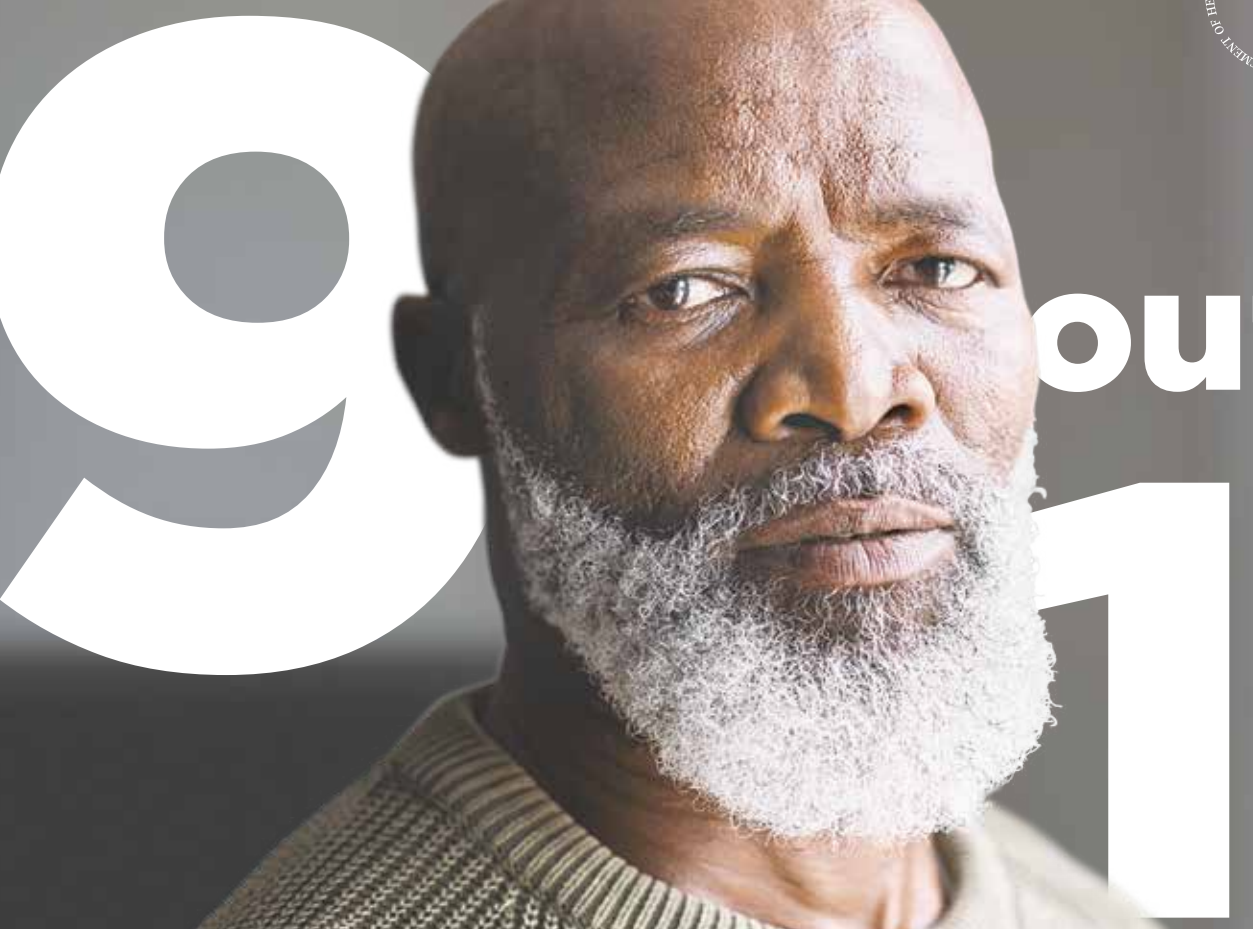
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9 out of 10

9 OUT OF 10 COVID DEATHS IN THE U.S. WERE PEOPLE 50 AND OLDER.

The numbers are staggering. Your risk is even higher with a chronic condition like diabetes or heart disease. But vaccines have reduced the risk of hospitalization and death from COVID. Get your updated COVID vaccine now.

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