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Get On Up

The Story of James Brown Hits the Big Screen



“He was someone who was more than just about music, he handled much of his own business as well and did things that a lot of Black artists were not doing at the time,” says Data News Weekly publisher Terry Jones who interviewed James Brown for one of the first issues of Data News Weekly.

By Edwin Buggage

Get On Up: The Story of James Brown

On August 1, 2014 the film “Get on Up” was released. It is the story of James Brown, a man who changed the face of music and the world. His story is a great example showing it is not where you start out in

life that is important, but how you finish. And through hard work, determination, perseverance and sacrifice you can make your dreams a reality. In the film Brown is played by Chadwick Boseman who does an excellent job in his portrayal as the Godfather of Soul. Capturing to perfection the many stages of James Brown’s life and playing a complicated character that is an award worthy performance. The film has a stellar supporting

cast that includes Viola Davis, as his troubled mother, also in the film is Dan Aykrod, Jill Scott, Lennie James, Craig Robinson, Tika Sumpter, Brandon Smith and incredible performances by Natchez Mississippi twins Jamarion and Jordan Scott who both played a young James Brown.

From the advertisements and trailer of the film left some with low expectations and concerns about

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors
CEO/Publisher	Freddie Allen
Edwin Buggage	Edwin Buggage
Editor	Kichea S. Burt
Calla Victoria	Jineea Butler
Executive Assistant	Charlene Crowell
June Hazeur	George E. Curry
Accounting	Bob Moos
	Glenn Summers
	Calla Victoria
	Art Direction & Production
	MainorMedia.com
	Editorial Submissions
	datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
	Advertising Inquiries
	datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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how the film would portray James Brown. Would it go into the life of a man who overcame extreme poverty to rise to greatness, or would it be a slapstick type caricature similar to the likes of Eddie Murphy SNL sketch where he imitates James Brown? Fortunately, that was not the case says Melissa "Soul Sister" Weber, who is a DJ at WWOZ hosting a show dedicated to soul music as well doing well attended DJ gigs across town. She is a long-time James Brown fan and says of the film, "As someone who is really into James Brown, he is my favorite artist of all times, I went into the film as a skeptic, and after I saw it I loved the film. I think in the little over two hours the film covered aspects of James Brown's complicate life. I think Chadwick Boseman did a phenomenal job as James Brown and I feel he should get an Oscar nomination for his role." Musician and Singer Clyde Wilson agrees, "Get on Up was a great movie, it was very educational and now we know the story behind the glory. In the film it showed that although he was great he was as all of us flawed in some ways. But what I thought was good in this movie is that it showed how he overcame so much adversity to become a success."

Soul Brother Number 1

James Brown was a man who took his life and fate in his own hands. He was one who was ahead of his time given the racial climate at the time. He was a man who demanded respect and throughout his life and in his passing in 2006 has become an icon influencing generations in the process that stretches far beyond his music. During his life he came to embody a symbol of Black empowerment and someone who fought injustice and using his musical gifts he was a freedom fighter of great importance and an inspiration to many. David "DJ Dave Soul" Holmes is a DJ and music producer who is from New Orleans by way of Chicago who after Hurricane Katrina calls Atlanta his home. He is known for his great skills as a performance DJ and holds James Brown in high regard. "He was one of the few Black artists of the time to take control of all aspects of his career, in addition to getting into other business ventures. He was one of the artists who brought an unfiltered Black sound to the mainstream with music that was unapologetically Black and soulful."

James Brown's connection is far and wide, his music and influence spans generations. But one person who was on the frontlines of seeing James Brown when he was at the peak of his performing



"As someone who is really into James Brown, he is my favorite artist of all times, I went into the film as a skeptic, and after I saw it I loved the film," says Melissa "DJ Soul Sister" Weber. Chadwick Boseman as James Brown.

prowess was Data News Weekly's Publisher Terry Jones. Who as a teenager was able to meet and interview Mr. Brown for either the first or second issue of the Data News Weekly. Almost 48 years later he laughs as he tells the story of his meeting and interview with the legendary entertainer. "When my father started Data News Weekly I went to a show and I was taken backstage to interview James Brown. The funny thing about this show was that he was told by the doctor that he was sweating too much and for medical reasons that he may have to stop performing. And we were going to do a story about James Brown quitting the business, but as we know he kept on making great music and impacting the world in amazing ways."

Speaking of the importance of James Brown at the peak of his fame and his impact Jones continues saying, "It was a thrill meeting him, and he was the top singer in the world to us. It was the cover story; it was a big thing for a young kid like me." Continuing he says comparing his impact to an artist of today he says, "He was someone who was more than just about music, he handled much of his own business as well and did things that a lot of Black artists were not doing at the time. When I think of someone who was doing some of the things he was doing in business, I think today of someone like what Master P, or Cash Money Records or Jay-Z, but

he was doing this long before them when it was a lot tougher for a Black artist to assert himself in business."

James Brown: The Man and His Music Continues to Influence Generations

The music of James Brown is according to whosampled.com a website dedicated to researching songs that sample different artist, the music of Mr. Brown has been sampled 3000 times. Of course that does not count the number of independent artists who have sampled his music so the number is much larger. And what may be surprising for some is that it is not just hip-hop artist who sample his music it can be found in everything from pop, rock, R&B, electronic dance music and many other genres including New Orleans Bounce Music. This local form of music has become identifiable by two samples, one being the Showboys song "Drag Rap" (Triggerman) and Derek B "Rock the Beat" or Cameron Paul's "Brown Beats" that both contain replayed versions of James Brown's "Funky Drummer."

DJ Dave Soul remarks on the wide span of James Brown's music, "His music has influenced so many artists and producers not just in hip-hop but all music. He was a visionary in so many ways and his life is an inspiration. In hip-hop there wouldn't be as many rap classics if it wasn't for his music." He also mentions the connection between James Brown and New Orleans Bounce Music, "The Brown Beat, the drum pattern comes from 'Funky Drummer' Derek B 'Rock the Beat' which is the second most music that is used in bounce music."

While today because of performers such as New Orleans based bounce artist Big Freedia and mainstream artist Miley Cyrus having placed twerk dancing into the living rooms of middle class America, it is something that people from New Orleans have been doing for over two decades. DJ Jubilee (Jerome Temple) is considered by many the King of Bounce. He is known for his high energy songs that get the

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The Legend of LIONMAN One Million Kick Challenge

Kicking Obesity Out Of America

The Third Annual The Legend Of LIONMAN One Million Kick Challenge is excited to welcome The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as its partner in the fight to end childhood obesity!

Last year President Barack Obama declared September National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month with the support of over 75 national organizations including Let's Move, The President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition (PCFSN), The National Association of Children's Hospitals, Health Corps, NAACP, and United Way.

Fit NOLA, GE Capital, The Ad-

vocate, AARP, Data News Weekly, and Amerigroup have also the fight and partnered with The Legend Of LIONMAN One Million Kick Challenge to help "Kick Obesity Out Of America!"

Obesity is a growing epidemic in America, especially among children, creating health problems that were once unique to adults. Today more and more children are developing cancers, heart problems, asthma, and high blood pressure. The Legend Of LIONMAN is challenging everyone to "kick-start" their commitment to eat healthier and be physically active by kick-

ing with us on September 17, 2014. Children and adults of all ages can register at www.LIONMAN1mkick-registration.com to be a part of this nation-wide event. There will also be a special telecast from First Lady Michelle Obama!

The Gates Foundation has agreed to sponsor 20 children and their families to attend a national conference in New Orleans as part of The Legend Of LIONMAN One Million Kick Challenge Contest. Visit our websites www.LIONMAN1mkick.com or www.TheLegendOfLIONMAN.com for details.

Cowen Institute Awarded Grant for Work with At-Risk Population

The Aspen Institute, one of the nation's largest education and policy think tanks, has awarded the Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University and the Partnership for Youth Development three additional years of funding for their work connecting at-risk teens and young adults with education and employment opportunities.

The grant, worth up to \$500,000, specifically targets efforts to reconnect "opportunity youth," a term used to describe the 6.7 million Americans between 16 and 24 years of age who are neither enrolled in school nor in the workforce.

The Cowen Institute and Partnership for Youth Development, in collaboration with community-based organizations, private sector leaders, local government stakeholders, philanthropists and higher education partners have built an initiative called Employment and Mobility Pathways Linked for Opportunity Youth, or EMPLOY, which aims to increase the access of New Orleans opportunity youth to quality vocational training, academic and support services, and high-growth jobs.

The collaborative received a planning grant from the Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund last year, which it used to bring together various stakeholders to design strategies for young people who face extraordinary barriers to success.

"The Cowen Institute is thrilled to support the work of the EMPLOY collaborative," said John Ayers, executive director of the Cowen Institute. "The Institute is eager to continue identifying ways to leverage Tulane's strengths in this effort. As an anchor institution, Tulane is well positioned to connect with regional employers, higher education institutions, support service providers and public sector stakeholders, who can support opportunity youth along their developmental pathways."

New Orleans is one of 19 cities to receive the Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund grant. The fund, made up of contributions from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and other donors, is managed by the Aspen Institute's Forum for Community Solutions, which serves as a platform for sharing best practices among community collaborations.

Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise! A Back to School Health Fair and Family Health Expo

The Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated will host its 4th annual Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise Back to School Health Fair and Family Health Expo on Saturday, August 9 at the Dryades YMCA at 10 a.m.

The event will feature healthy screenings, including vision, HIV, blood pressure, dental, and diabetes. Dr. Michaela King serves as Chair of the event and Christina Bragg is Co-Chair. The event is free and will include food, entertainment, prizes, and school sup-

plies giveaways. There will be a live cooking demo, flash fitness activities as well as workshops on physical and fiscal health for adults and kids. For more information, contact Dr. Michaela King at kidsdoc820@yahoo.com or 504-398-0593.

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floor packed, as well as shows the feature of high energy dancing on stage. In his early 90's song "Jubilee All" was the first recording song to use the word "twerk" referring to dancing. He says there are many similarities to what he does on stage and James Brown does onstage and that the energy of bounce is akin to many local things, but Brown's music has become an essential part of the musical ingredients that make up the gumbo of music that makes New Orleans Bounce. "We sampled a lot of James Brown in our music and his style was about dancing and so is bounce. What I do as James Brown do is very similar, in that, it is about dancing and feeling good. Like when people hear his voice they know it is about getting down and when they hear me say get it ready you know that it is about my energy and the people coming together to dance."

Say It Loud...I'm Black and I'm Proud

James Brown was a man whose life was much greater than music; he was a man who impacted the world in so many ways. In a time when Blacks was fighting for equal rights, and there weren't as many Black heroes, Brown made a song that embodied the spirit of the times and the quest for full citizenship. "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud" became an anthem of uplift and a declaration transforming something that a badge of shame and second-class citizenship into something that would become a badge of honor and self-determination. Melissa "Soul Sister" Weber feels it was a courageous and bold statement for



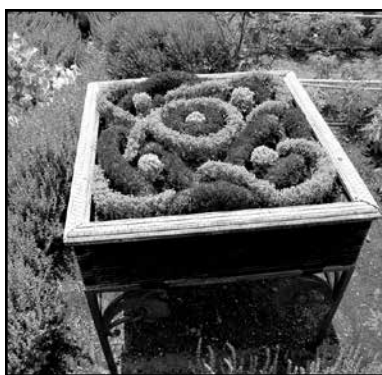
DJ Dave Soul (David Holmes) remarks on the wide span of James Brown's music, "His music has influenced so many artists and producers not just in hip-hop but all music." Godfather of Soul James Brown pictured with King of Pop Michael Jackson.

Gardening in Miniature

By LMG Calla Victoria

People who love to garden are not always blessed to have a large garden to follow their passion, or any green space at all. Case in point apartment dwellers, people residing in hi-rises, sailors who live and work in large ships on the water, etc. Then there are seniors who love to garden but are no longer able to do a lot of the strenuous bending associated with traditional gardening, but as always ingenuity finds a way; enter Miniature Gardens and Fairy Gardens.

Miniature Gardens, small and compact, can be placed in containers, on table tops, or anywhere. Perhaps this idea first started with gardeners who were tired of tossing away broken terracotta pots



and decided to use the pots even if they were broken, and avid gardeners who have run out of spaces to plant. Then there were the plant propagators developing dwarf varieties of all sorts of plant species. And finally there were the parents wanting to get their little ones interested in gardening, but gardening on a kid-friendly scale.

Fairy gardens are all the rage for kids now and are only limited by a child's imagination. They are a twist on Miniature Gardens as Fairy Gardens create an entire scene complete with mini furniture, houses, and what-

ever. The idea of the Fairy Garden is that some mysterious little fairy has taken up residence in your garden or container. There are loads of sites online where you can buy mini furniture and what-knots to realize your fairy garden fantasy, but is more fun and economical to find things around the house and re-purpose them. All kinds of containers are being utilized to create amazing mini landscapes for green space-limited apartment dwellers, seniors downsizing their gardening athletics, and kids. Come up with big ideas for tiny garden spaces and get creative.

Check out my "Gardening Tip of the Week" at www.thegardeningdiva.com

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!

Southern Girlfriends Rock Retreat



The 1st Southern Girlfriends Rock Retreat, the brainchild of Tanda Armstrong was held this past weekend August 1-3 at the fabulous picturesque Pontchartrain Landing Resort, the location remained a secret until Friday when all girlfriends met at Sweet Lorraine's and was convoyed to the resort. Girlfriends from near and far throughout the south came together for a weekend of Education, Motivation, Spiritual Revitalization, and commitment to community service and fun. The guest speaker for this year's retreat was the one and only Loretta Petit.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Entergy Back to School Event

Photos by Glenn Summers

Entergy held a Back-to-school volunteer event at KIPP Believe Primary's new building on Burdette Street (the old Benjamin Banneker Elementary). As part of the company's commitment to community and education, Entergy leaders and nearly 100 employees from around the metro New Orleans area rolled up their sleeves to help KIPP Believe Primary get the school's new Uptown building ready for students before next Tuesday, Aug. 5.



Jamal Batiste in Get On Up

Photos by Glenn Summers

Jamal Batiste with family and friends in the Penthouse of the Ritz Carlton celebrating his role in the James Brown movie Get On Up.



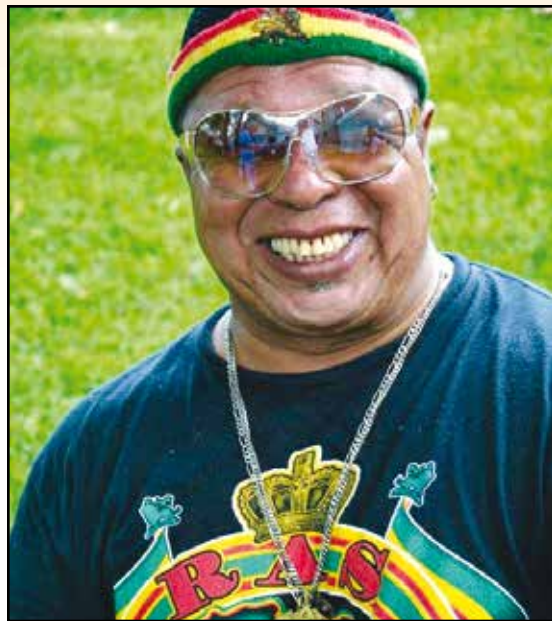
Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

SatchmoFest 2014

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

Satchmo SummerFest 2014 sets attendance records. This year's festivities were largely free of inclement weather giving the world-class roster of performers plenty to celebrate. Visitors and locals enjoyed the festival even with three digit feel like temperatures and super high humidity.



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

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Hip Hop Corner

Putting on My Harriett Tubman Shoes



By Jineea Butler
NNPA Columnist

In light of all the racism mounting up around us I put myself in Harriet Tubman's shoes. Her mind had to be ready for war. What made her believe she could be free? Where did the courage come from when

all displays of aggression were met with discipline? If you knew that your opportunity to be free was on the other side of the woods 900 miles on foot in clear and present danger, would you go? If you said yes, then why are you still a slave?

KRS-ONE taught me one of the most valuable lessons of my life in 1989 on his album Ghetto Music, "You Must Learn." He said it so firmly, so forcefully, that I had to take notice. I trusted him, as the young people trust artists of today. There was a time where we had trusted 'Teachas' in the Hip Hop community, a time where we were actually seeking freedom from chaotic living conditions. Every artist

wasn't in his or her purest form but we had a balance of concerned and responsible lyricist who had enough knowledge to educate us on our future direction. I shouldn't have wait two years for Common to make an album to be refreshed.

The question that has everybody stumped then and now is: If they let us go free, will we know how to act? Based on preliminary data it doesn't look favorable. Look what happened when Hip Hop started making millionaires hand over foot – we start shooting up radio stations, clubs, invading high profile neighborhoods with loud parties, giving friends keys to cars and houses so they can run dog rings

etc. etc.

Does that give anyone the right to hinder our growth because we may misappropriate good fortune? Of course not. Remember we are the byproduct designed to build the infrastructure to this country but never supposed to enjoy it.

For us to experience a glimpse of the 'Good Life' where Kanye West said people had to die. I think about Harriet on the crusade selflessly risking her life never losing a passenger. I think the powers that be think they have given us enough time to get ourselves together provide for ourselves and recover from the trauma they put us through. Now they want to revoke our free-

dom pass. I think the real reason they want to eradicate our people is because they know how inhumane they treated us and see how inhumane we can sometimes act and they feel that we are better off in cages or dead. Because of what they did.

Somebody has to be at the bottom. Somebody has to populate the jails and prisons. Somebody has to work the low-paying jobs. Only a handful of us are competing and those who are competing are competing against one another for top rank positions in leadership of Ego Land, the make believe world

Butler, Continued
on next page.

Democrats' Smart Butt White Boys Syndrome



George C. Curry
NNPA

In 1984, former UN Ambassador Andrew Young described the inner circle of Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale as "smart a- White boys" who thought they knew everything. Obviously, they didn't because Mondale lost the general election by a large margin to Ronald Reagan.

Knowing that in a president's second-term, the party in power usually loses 29 House seats, along with the real possibility of Democrats losing control of the Senate this year, some party leaders are trying to give the appearance they are in control and Democrats will buck that historical voting trend.

In an interview with a group of African American reporters last week, for example, Rep. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Cam-

paign Committee, described how much better positioned Democrats are this year compared to past off-year elections. He spoke of the DCCC hiring a diversity director for the first time, adding a national voter training director, creating an Internet platform for vendors of color and allowing resumes to be dropped off in the field.

In other words, he talked about the kind of things smart butt White boys talk about. My fear is that another group of smart butt White boys will lead Democrats down the path of defeat unless the strategists reverse course.

The upcoming mid-term election may be yet another example of Black voters never getting the credit they deserve winning seats for the party but getting an overabundance of blame when Democrats get their heads handed to them.

The Washington Post, carried a story under the headline, "Will black voters be House Democrats' midterm firewall?" In the story, Israel noted that in 15 of the top 25 districts being targeted by the DCCC, Blacks make up at least 10 percent of the voting-age population, enough to provide the margin of victory.

"We have a unique challenge

in offsetting drop off with African American voters, with Hispanic voters, and with young female voters," Israel said. "So we're tackling those challenges head on."

In the meeting with reporters, Israel mentioned efforts from getting commercials cut by First Lady Michelle Obama to getting Black voters to sign cards committing them to vote in November. As Election Day nears, those cards will be mailed back to prospective voters, hoping that action will get them to turn up at the polls.

The most troubling aspect of the exchange with Israel was that he appears to be putting more faith in such long-shot gimmicks as voter commitment cards than reaching the Black community through the Black Press.

In fact, when pressed on the issue of utilizing Black media, Israel said while there may be some Black media buys, "The vast majority of our budget is spent on one thing – that is buying television time. That's it."

That may be "it" for Democrats in November if they think the best way to reach Black voters is to lump them in with everyone else who watches TV. Even if television reaches more Black voters than

Black newspapers, radio stations, magazines and Internet sites, it is not as trusted by African Americans as the Black Press.

As a Nielsen study found, "Companies mistakenly believe there are no language barriers, that a general market 'one-size-fits-all' strategy is an effective way to reach African-Americans. Just the opposite is true."

If smart butt White boys are as smart as they think, they would recognize that in the Black community, the messenger is as important as the message. And that is not limited to the Black Press. It also applies to the largely White-controlled 527 organizations established in recent elections that acted as though they knew more about our community than grass root organizations that are on the ground every day, yet continue to struggle for funding.

Democrats face another hurdle – 67 percent of the Democratic base does not know there is a mid-term election in November, according to polling done for the DCCC by Cornel Belcher, an African American.

In addition, a poll conducted by the Pew Research Center in July found: "Currently, 45% of registered voters who plan to support the Republican in their district say

they are more enthusiastic about voting than in prior congressional elections; that compares with 37% of those who plan to vote for the Democratic candidate."

Democrats need to give Blacks something to vote for rather than overly relying Republican calls for impeachment to motivate the Black base.

According to an analysis of the Black vote by the Associated Press, African Americans voted at a higher rate than Whites in 2008 and 2012. Obviously, having Barack Obama's name on the ballot was a key factor.

Blacks can vote at high levels again in 2014 if they understand the success or failure Obama's last two years in office will be determined by who gets elected in November. But if Democrats stubbornly stick to relying on television to reach Black voters, they will lose in 2014 just as smart butt White boys lost 30 years ago.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA.) He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge and George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook.

Retiring? You Have a Choice to Make on Medicare

By Bob Moos

When you retire and qualify for Medicare at 65, you'll need to decide how you'd like to receive your health care benefits.

Because you'll be new to Medicare, you may not realize you have two options.

One is to join the government's fee-for-service program that's existed for 49 years. The other is to buy a Medicare Advantage plan from a private insurer.

The choice may seem bewildering at first, so let's go over each option.

With traditional fee-for-service coverage, you may go to any doctor, hospital or other provider that accepts Medicare. Medicare pays the provider a fee for the service you receive. Once you meet your annual deductible, Medicare typically covers 80 percent of the cost for your care.

You have a few choices for covering the other 20 percent:

n You may use your retiree health plan from your former employer, if you're retired and have such a policy. Some retiree plans may cost less or provide more benefits than other supplemental coverage.

n You may qualify for Medicaid, if you have limited income and savings. Besides helping with your out-of-pocket costs like deductibles and co-insurance, Medicaid may pay for your monthly Medicare premiums.

n If neither of those applies, you



may buy a "Medigap" policy from a private insurer to cover what Medicare does not. There are 10 kinds of Medigap plans, with different benefits, so you'll need to decide which is best for you.

If you choose the traditional fee-for-service program, you'll probably also want to buy a prescription drug plan to go with your other coverage.

Traditional Medicare remains the favorite among people wanting the broadest possible access to doctors, hospitals and other providers. When coupled with a supplemental plan, it also makes your health care costs relatively predictable.

Still, 30 percent of Medicare ben-

eficiaries – including 28 percent of Louisianians with Medicare – now prefer to get their health care benefits through a private insurer. The number of people buying private Medicare Advantage plans has tripled over the last 10 years.

With Medicare Advantage, insurance companies contract with the government to provide care. Every private plan must cover all the benefits that traditional Medicare covers. In some cases, Medicare Advantage plans may offer extra benefits, like routine hearing or vision care.

Many plans charge a premium on top of the \$104.90 you'll pay

each month for Medicare's medical insurance, but there's no need to buy a supplemental Medigap policy. Likewise, most Medicare Advantage plans include drug coverage with their other benefits.

The premiums, deductibles and co-payments will vary from one Medicare Advantage plan to another. But all plans, by law, must have annual limits on their overall out-of-pocket costs.

Unlike the traditional fee-for-service program, most Medicare Advantage plans require you to go to doctors and hospitals within their network of providers or pay more for getting care outside the network.

Still, the private health plans have been especially popular among people with low to moderate incomes. They provide relatively affordable supplemental coverage, with lower premiums than those for Medigap policies.

So, which is better – the traditional fee-for-service coverage or a private Medicare Advantage plan? That depends on your own circumstances and preferences. What's best for one person may not work as well for someone else.

To find out more about your options, you can visit www.medicare.gov and browse through the "Medicare and You" handbook. The website will also give you detailed information about the Medigap and Medicare Advantage policies available in your area.

Becoming informed will help you select the health care option that best fits your needs. It will also help you avoid mistakes that may cost you money.

One final note: If you're turning 65 and continuing to work, you still need to consider Medicare as you approach your birthday and qualify for the health care coverage.

The best way to begin is to contact your company's human resources department to determine how your current employer-provided insurance will fit with Medicare's coverage.

Bob Moos is the Southwest public affairs officer for the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Butler, Continued from previous page.

of illusions and status which only exists in the minds of Black America. While the rest of the world is competing for land, oil and water resources, we are trying to one up each other and sabotage anything that makes sense for the sake of keeping the illusion alive.

I haven't seen another community that cripples one another outside their traditional beliefs.

We have to think economically at all times. We need you to be successful. How are we going to upgrade our pay grade, if we downgrading those around us? How are we going to stop people from being senselessly murdered, if they don't see other options? We obviously

can't wait for someone to do it for us. We are nearing the 60th anniversary of 14-year-old Emmett Till/s murder, yet we are still dealing with the similar situations.

When the United States wants to disarm somebody, we attack the economics. We tell our allies, don't do business with the country in question. And then and only when the country decides to call our bluff, we bring in the muscle. Why are our tactics any different? Even in the streets beef erupts when you play with someone's money. So what are we waiting for? The right person to tell us stop giving our money away, stop being willing participants in the prison industrial complex, to

use our education and class as a weapon. We don't have time to be tired, scared and distracted. Yes, I put Harriet Tubman's shoes on. I think about that rifle she carried. A song about her says "I know your feet are tired, I know you getting weary, but I don't like cowards, so I put a gun to your head, do you wanna die by the white man or would you rather die by me instead."

Do you hear me?

Jineea Butler, founder of the Social Services of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop Union is a Hip Hop Analyst who investigates the trends and behaviors of the community and delivers programming that solves the Hip Hop Dilemma. She can be reached at jineea@gmail.com or Tweet her at @flygirladyjay

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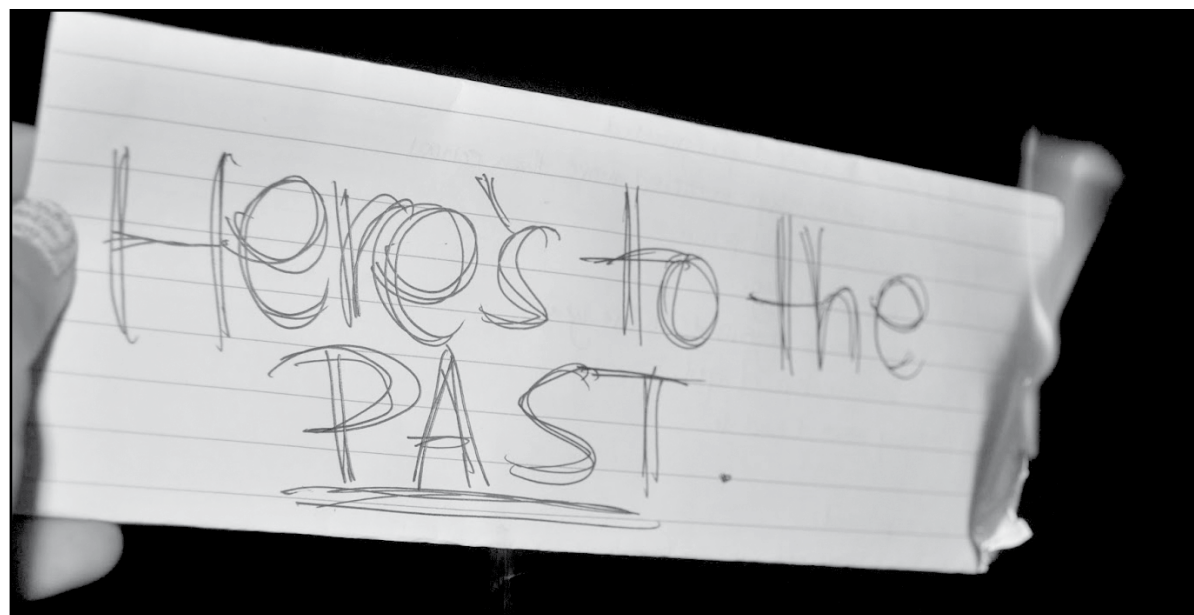


LABI Gathers Officials to Discuss Workforce Solutions for Ex-Offenders

Panel Discussion: Hiring Former Offenders with Certified Skills and Training

The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) will host a forum with law enforcement and officials to discuss solutions to Louisiana's workforce challenges Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 2-4 p.m. at the LABI Conference Center, 3113 Valley Creek Drive in Baton Rouge.

"Given the challenges LABI members have in finding skilled workers, it will take a multi-pronged approach to meet our growing workforce demand. For example, LABI successfully supported legislation during the 2014 legislative session to provide additional protections for businesses that hire ex-offenders and make it possible for former offenders to get a provisional license to practice trade," LABI President Stephen Waguespack said. "With



more than 15,000 men and women released from Louisiana prisons every year, this effort will help make it easier for ex-offenders with skills in high-demand jobs to rejoin the

workforce and contribute to Louisiana's growth."

Panelists James LeBlanc, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections; Ken-

neth Polite, Jr., U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana; and Beauregard "Bud" Torress III, Sheriff of Pointe Coupee Parish will focus on partnerships across indus-

try, law enforcement, and state and federal agencies to develop education, mentoring, and nationally certified training programs to facilitate the reintegration of ex-offenders back into society.

The panel discussion, moderated by Waguespack, will also explain the current and new protections in place for Louisiana employers that hire former offenders.

Additionally, former offenders who successfully received training while incarcerated in Louisiana and are now employed in their new trades will join the conversation alongside their private sector employers.

The event is open to the general public. Anyone seeking to register or to get additional information can visit labi.org/events or contact Claire Killen by phone at 225-215-6643 or email at clairek@labi.org.

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Black Unemployment Rate Increases

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The Black unemployment rate climbed from 10.7 percent in June to 11.4 percent in July, an increase attributed to more African Americans looking for work and finding it.

“Building off the strength of the previous month, people have been encouraged to re-enter the labor force and search for work and that caused the unemployment rate to tick up slightly,” said Valerie Wilson, an economist and director of the Economic Policy Institute’s Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy (PREE). “Overall, this is a good report, but it’s not a report that indicates that the economy is continuing to build steam.”

The Labor Department reported that the national unemployment rate increased from 6.1 percent in June to 6.2 percent in July. The labor force participation rate, the pool of people either hunting for jobs or currently working, also increased from 62.8 percent in June to 62.9 percent in July.

“People who put themselves on the bench are now saying, ‘I’m coming off the bench, I want to try and find a job now,’” said William Spriggs, chief economist for the AFL-CIO. Spriggs, former Assistant Secretary of Labor in the Obama administration said people are taking action because jobs are being created. “People are actually feeling it,” he explained.



Valerie Wilson sees good news (NNPA File Photo by Freddie Allen).

Even though, the unemployment rate for Black men over 20-years-old rose from 10.9 percent in June to 11.1 percent in July, the labor force participation rate jumped from 67.5 percent in June to 68 percent in July, indicating that people are feeling better about their chances of finding work. Meanwhile, the jobless rate for White males over 20-years-old decreased from 4.9 percent in June to 4.8 percent in July, and the share of workers in that group who were looking for jobs or currently employed also decreased from 72.3 percent in June to 72.2 percent last month.

The jobless rate for Black women over 20-years-old leaped from 9 percent in June to 10.1 percent in July. Meanwhile, the jobless rate

for White women over 20-years-old edged up slightly from 4.8 percent in June to 4.9 percent in July. Like Black men, more Black women were actively seeking jobs and getting hired. The labor force participation rate for Black women rose from 61.4 percent in June to 62.3 percent in July, compared to White women who saw their participation rate edge down from 58 percent to 57.9 percent in July.

In a statement posted on the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities’ website, Chad Stone, chief economist at the center, said that July’s jobs report shows that the labor market is “moving in the right direction, but still has a ways to go before everyone who wants to work has a reasonable chance of finding a suitable job.”

Stone also noted that Congress made it tougher for millions of jobless Americans when lawmakers allowed emergency unemployment benefits to expire last December. Not only do Blacks suffer high rates of unemployment, they often endure high rates of long-term unemployment, as well. Emergency unemployment insurance helps people stay afloat as they continue their job hunt.

“Seven months later, long-term unemployment remains higher than when any of the previous seven emergency unemployment programs expired after previous recessions,” wrote Stone. “In addition, the share of the population with a job remains well below where it was at the start of the recession.”

Researchers at the Economic Policy Institute said that July’s jobs report “showed decent growth,” but the 209,000 jobs that were added last month were a steep decline from the monthly average of 277,000 jobs added during the second quarter.

“Even at 209,000 jobs it would still take four years to get back to where we were. In another less severe recession, 209,000 would be great numbers but given the depths that we’re coming back from, we’re going to need a little more than that to get back to full strength more quickly,” said Wilson.

Wilson added: “The first half of this year has been pretty positive. We’ll keep looking ahead and hope things continue to move in the right direction.”

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“We sampled a lot of James Brown in our music and his style was about dancing and so is bounce. What I do as James Brown do is very similar, in that, it is about dancing and feeling good. Like when people hear his voice they know it is about getting down and when they hear me say get it ready you know that it is about my energy and the people coming together to dance,” says Bounce Music Pioneer DJ Jubilee. Chadwick Boseman as James Brown.

Mr. Brown to make a relevant piece of art that today still stands the test of time. “He was someone, a man of courage, who put his career on the line to make a bold statement as “Say It Loud, I’m Black and I’m Proud.” He could have played it safe but throughout his life he worked to inspire pride in Black people and to respect all people and make them realize we are all human, bringing people together with his music.”

The film “Get on Up” introduces people to the amazing and complicated life of the man that is James Brown. Hopefully, it will lead individuals to read more about him and many of the other greats of Black music who paved the way for many of the greats of today. And that they

realize that the well that many of them drink from is one they did not dig. And as we see unlimited opportunities of some of the greats that’s hitting the stage today or of the past several decades from Michael Jackson, Prince, Chris Brown, Usher or even Jay-Z who is celebrated for his business acumen; that one of the men who paved the way and gave them the template is James Brown. Who along with so many other greats of yesterday that has in spite of insurmountable odds did not only survive but strived for and achieved greatness. Hopefully, this film will not only entertain, but educate and inspire a new generation to aspire to go further and reach higher.

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Event Dates: Vizio Pricing- Wednesday, August 13 - Sunday, August 17, Coke Pricing- Wednesday, August 13 - Tuesday, August 26, 2014. Prices and items available only at Store #3167- 4301 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126 for the effective dates listed. Items identified as being available in limited quantities do not qualify for Rain Checks or offers of substitute items. In all cases, we reserve the right to limit quantities to normal retail purchases or one-per-customer or household, and to exclude dealers. The "spark" design and Walmart are marks and/or registered marks of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ©2014 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, AR. Printed in the USA. Available while supplies last. Plus taxes and bottle deposit where applicable.

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