

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**Zulu Big Shot 2020
Champagne Toast**

**Data Zone
Page 7**

November 23 - November 29 , 2019 54th Year Volume 30 www.ladatanews.com

FREE
COPY

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture

*A New Documentary Explores
the Black Masking Culture*

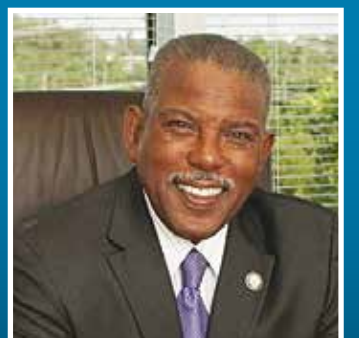
Page 2



Newsmaker
Governor
John Bel Edwards
Re-Elected

Page 4

State & Local
Black Votes
Matter



Page 5

New Orleans

Downtown Injun Culture

A New Documentary Explores the Black Masking Culture



Beulah Productions in association with Black Masking.org and No UmBow Films to make the groundbreaking documentary film “New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture.”

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

A Special City and the Search for the Authentic New Orleans
New Orleans is an amazing city with a culture that marries the old and new world. It is truly a global city with many rich traditions that people from all corners of the globe come to experience.

And because of this unique heritage, it’s attracted many who have attempted to understand it by making-of documentaries, feature films, books, TV shows and creating photo exhibits.
While some of their intentions may not have intentionally missed capturing the essence of the spirit of the people and their cultural productions, unfortunately, it is often the result. This is something that leaves the true and authentic story still untold.

New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture
This is what’s led Chayil Glenn Jones, owner of Beulah Productions in association with No UmBow Films to make the groundbreaking documentary film “New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture.” (New Orleans separated into 17 Wards Downtown is the north side of Canal Street and is the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Wards).
Beulah Productions is a media services, and cultural education company. The Blackmasking.org

Cover Image: Big Chief Bo Dean (Young Cheyenne) Chayil Glenn Jones Executive Producer “New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture” and Big Chief Shaka Zulu (Golden Feather Hunters.)

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Newsmaker	4
State & Local News . . .	5
Data Zone	6
Commentary.	8
Dollars & Sense	9
Fleur De Lis	10
National News	11

DATA NEWS WEEKLY
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

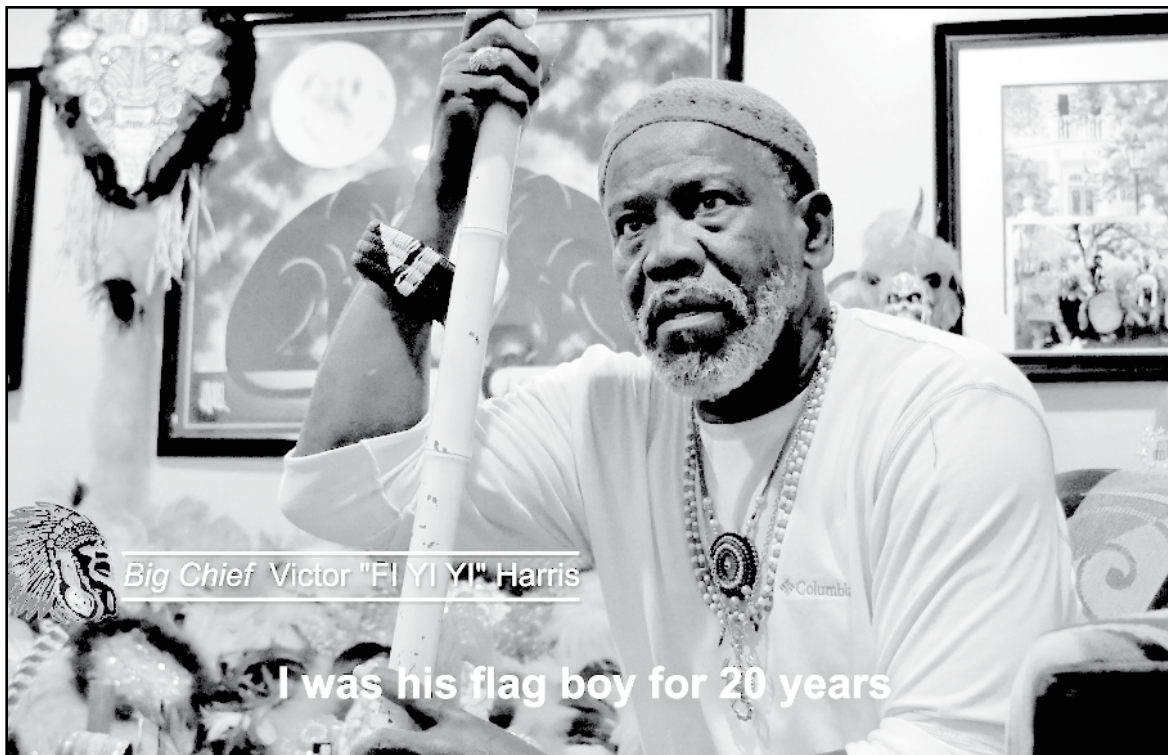
Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction & Production
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Pubinator.com
	Terry Jones	
Edwin Buggage	Data News Weekly	Editorial Submissions
	Staff Writers	datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Editor	Stacy M. Brown	
Sharonda Green	Ashley K. Shelton	Advertising Inquiries
	Muhammad Yungai	datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Executive Assistant	NNPA	
	Fleur De Lis	Distribution
June Hazeur	Matthew Hinton/AP	On The Run
Accounting	Jason Behnken/AP Photo	Courier Services

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Big Chief Shaka Zulu



Big Chief Victor Fi Yi Yi



Chayil Glenn Jones, owner of Beulah Productions and Executive Producer of "New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture."

auxiliary of Beulah Productions is responsible for Cultural education and spearheading the mission of preserving the aboriginal culture of New Orleans. At the heart of this aboriginal culture is the New Orleans Black Masking Injuns, known as the Mardi Gras Indians.

Describing the film and why he decided to focus on this tradition he says, "This film is about Black Masking where it came from and the Big Chiefs describe how the culture has evolved in this 300-year history of New Orleans, says Jones."

Jones, a native of New Orleans saw the need to present the Black

Masking Culture through a lens that lends itself to a better understanding of the tradition through the voice of those that create and practice it.

"Eric Burt who is involved in many aspects of the culture and Big Chief Shaka Zulu who came from under Big Chief Allison "Tootie" Montana and the Yellow Pocahontas helped me gain entry to do these inter views for the 42 Tribes series."

The film is described as through the diversely unified voices of our native culture keepers and pillars, we provide an authentic narrative rooted at the core of storytelling and documentary filmmaking. Speaking of the importance of the continuation of the continuing of the culture and noting its importance to New Orleans.

"To not have us is like gumbo without the seasoning," says Big Chief Darryl Montana of the Yellow Pocahontas Black Masking Downtown Injun Tribe. Darryl Montana

is one of the Big Chiefs from the Big Chiefs 42 Tribes Interview Series published in the New Orleans Data News Weekly and BlackMasking.org and featured in the "NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN INJUN CULTURE" documentary.

Community is Invited to Premiere

On November 29, 2019, Beulah Productions, Audubon Institute Entergy Giant Screen, New Orleans Film Council, Data News Weekly and New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network will host the culminating event of the groundbreaking "NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN INJUN CULTURE" film documentary-RED CARPET EVENT & FILM PREMIERE, free and open to the public.

The film has many appearances by noted Big Chiefs and noted New Orleans Cultural Icons that includes: Big Chief Clarence Delcours (Creole Osceolas Tribe), Big Chief Shaka Zulu (Golden Feather Hunters), Big Chief Tyrone "Pie" Stevenson (Monogram Hunters), Big Chief Victor "Fi Yi Yi" Harris (Mandingo Warriors), Big Chief Nelson "Mandela Jr." Lewis (Black Wolf Hunters), Big Chief Otto "Fiyo" DeJean (7th Ward Hard Head Hunters), Big Chief David Peters Montana (Washitaw Nation), Big Chief Alfred Womble & Queen Wanda (Cheyenne Tribe), Big Chief Thomas C. "Bo" Dean (Young Cheyenne), Big Chief Darryl Montana (Yellow Pocahontas Hunters), Jerome "Big Duck" Smith (Tambourine N Fan).

Black Masking and the African Connection

In the film, it explores New Orleans' rich Black Masking Tradition, but it goes beyond

what has become the folk tales many have come to know and search for a deeper truth in its origins and practice.

"I have been knowing Glenn Jones for a while and it is the culture that brought us together," says Big Chief Victor "Fi Yi Yi" Harris (Mandingo Warriors)."

"The culture of our city is like that it brings people together and is a bridge that connects people from different backgrounds. We don't have to know each other, but it is the kinship of what we produce; because we know this is important and have to be preserved and survived for future generations," says Fi Yi Yi.

Harris acknowledges and understands how some came to call themselves and their practice of making suits Masking Indian, but he speaks about the Masking Tradition and its connection to Africa, something that is explored in the film. "I am an African Mandingo Warrior in the spirit of Fi Ya Ya and this is what informs you what I do when making a suit and what I am presenting."

This connection to Africa and the diaspora is also echoed by Dr. Tia Smith, Head of the Department of Mass Communications at Xavier University. Who partnered with Jones providing student interns to help him and his team in their social media advertising campaigns; in addition to having use of the department facilities to meet about his production?

"Global Africana Cultures in the Caribbean, or in Africa respond to drums. New Orleans is the Mecca here in the United States and that we need to record what is produced here. It is absolutely necessary, we need to tell the stories of our culture and how that came about,

so the next generation can have a healthy understanding of it to be sustainable to future generations."

The Search for Truth and Authenticity

There is no other film like it," says Co-Director Oba Jordan Lorrus. "Necessity is the mother of invention and I would say that research is the father of truth."

Continuing he says, "What you have is an oral history of New Orleans and that is great, but how far are we to going to find a greater truth by doing research. We spoke with a lot of people on this journey making the film. There are things that people do, and they don't connect it to any kind of research historical research. We want documented data that corresponded and correlated with that oral history."

Jay Banks is a City Councilmember representing District B and is a former King of Zulu. He feels the culture bearers are what make New Orleans what it is.

"The culture bearers are this city, which is why people come to this city. They come here for this wonderfully unique and cannot be duplicated culture. They make the train go; without them, we would not have this magic."

Banks is also one who wishes many who come to document New Orleans Culture, people and is practices could get it right.

"It frustrates me that too often the portrayal of us is not real, but the people who are seeing it do not know it is not real. We can see from our perspective in New Orleans and say it didn't happen like that, but any place in the USA believes that it is accurate, and it is very frustrating."

Cover Story, Continued
on page 10.

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards Re-Elected to Second-Term

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

In a tight race that went down to the wire, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards won a second-term Saturday, November 16th narrowly defeating wealthy businessman Eddie Rispone. Who counted among his supporters President Donald Trump?

During his victory celebration, Gov. Edwards was surrounded by his supporters that included leaders from New Orleans such as Mayor LaToya Cantrell, City Council-at-Large members Jason Williams and Helena Moreno, State Senators Karen Carter Peterson and Troy Carter and U.S. Congressman Cedric Richmond, who introduced the Governor after his victory.



Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards arrives to address supporters at his Election Night Watch Party in Baton Rouge, LA., Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019. Photo: Matthew Hinton, AP

"The voters of Louisiana are going to decide this election on Louisiana issues," Edwards said. "They don't need the president or anybody else to tell them how to vote."

With his victory, the Governor continues to be the only Democrat elected in the Deep South.

It is known that during his second-term he'll face possible Republican supermajorities in both chambers of the Louisiana Legislature.

But Edwards who is a moderate and throughout his political career has been a bridge builder, working with members of both parties. In his victory speech, Edwards expressed optimism and said he and lawmakers can find common ground.

"Practically every major thing I've done as governor was done on a bipartisan basis," he said.

Celebrating the Life of a Louisiana Treasure

Author Ernest Gaines Dies at Age 86

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

Ernest Gaines was truly a unique voice as an author and scholar who is an American treasure. Recently, he passed after suffering a heart attack at the age of 86 in his home in the small community of Oscar in South Louisiana.

Many gathered to say farewell to one of Louisiana's most influential writers; who has received many accolades and honors throughout his life including receiving awards from both President's Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

His 1993 novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction. Gaines was a MacArthur Foundation fellow, was awarded the National Humanities Medal, and was inducted into the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) as a Chevalier.

Gaines was (born January 15, 1933, Oscar, Louisiana. His fiction works reflected the lives of the African Americans he encountered during his childhood growing up in rural Louisiana.



Award-Winning Author Ernest Gaines recently died at age 86. Several of Gaines's books were adapted into television movies, most notably *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1974) and *A Lesson Before Dying* (1999), both of which featured Cicely Tyson.

He is best known for his groundbreaking novels that include; *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, a fictional personal history spanning the period from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, his novels included *Catherine Carmier* (1964), *Of Love and Dust* (1967), *In My Father's House* (1978), and *A Gathering of Old Men* (1983). In 1994 he received the National Book Crit-

ics Circle Award for *A Lesson Before Dying* (1993), the story of two African Americans—an intellectually disabled man wrongly accused of murder and a teacher who visits him in prison.

Several of Gaines' books were adapted into television movies, most notably *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1974) and *A Lesson Before Dying* (1999), both of which featured Cicely Tyson.

In 2005 Gaines published *Mozart and Leadbelly*, a collection of stories and autobiographical essays about his childhood and his writing career. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2013.

The novella *The Tragedy of Brady Sims* (2017) follows a newspaper journalist as he researches "a human-interest story" on a man who killed his son. Several of Gaines's books were adapted into television movies, most notably *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1974) and *A Lesson Before Dying* (1999), both of which featured Cicely Tyson.

In 2005 Gaines published *Mo-*

zart and Leadbelly, a collection of stories and autobiographical essays about his childhood and his writing career. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2013.

He was not only a prolific writer and scholar but was dedicated to preserving and telling the stories of the people of Louisiana to the world.

Gaines and his wife built a home on land that was part of the plantation where he was born near False River and often hosted gatherings for family and friends. The couple worked to preserve a historic cemetery in the area where Gaines' ancestors and two of his brothers are buried.

Many spoke glowingly of a man who while highly acclaimed in the literary world lived with such, love, grace and humility. Always committed to serving others.

He was guided by a commitment to the people and places that were close to his heart, several speakers said during the funeral service celebrating his life.

Ernest Gaines will be missed, but his life and legacy lives on through his amazing work and all the lives he's touched.



Find us on:
facebook®

more photos
more stories
more data

Black Votes Matter



John Bel Edwards
Governor



Joseph Bouie
State Senate District 3



Mandie Landry
State House District 91



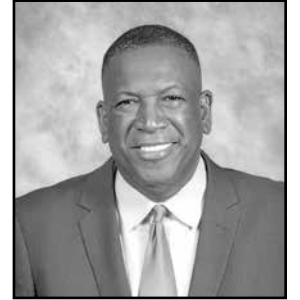
Matthew Willard
State House District 97



Aimee Adatto Freeman
State House District 98



Candace Newell
State House District 99



Byron Lee
Jefferson Parish Council
District 3

W	Candidate	Party	Votes	Percentage
Governor				
✓	John Bel Edwards	D	774,469	51%
	Eddie Rispone	GOP	734,128	49%
	Total	1,508,597		
	Min: 0% Max: 100% 100% Reporting 3,934 of 3,934 Precincts			
State Senate - District 3				
✓	Joseph Bouie	D	20,734	60%
	John H. Bagneris	D	14,027	40%
	Total	34,761		
	100% Reporting 98 of 98 Precincts			
State House - District 91				
✓	Mandie Landry	D 7	878	53%
	Robert McKnight	D	7,025	47%
	Total	14,903		
	100% Reporting 53 of 53 Precincts			
State House - District 97				
✓	Matthew Willard	D	9,849	51%
	Eugene Green	D	9,471	49%
	Total	19,320		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 53 of 53 Precincts			
State House - District 98				
✓	Aimee Adatto Freeman	D	9,091	58%
	Kea Sherman	D	6,638	42%
	Total	15,729		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 52 of 52 Precincts			
State House - District 99				
✓	Candace Newell	D	8,254	55%
Adonis Expose		D	6,857	45%
	Total	15,111		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 44 of 44 Precincts			
Jefferson Parish Council - Dist. 3				
✓	Byron Lee	D	10,628	50%
	Derrick Shepherd	D	10,482	50%
	Total	21,110		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 43 of 43 Precincts			
Orleans: PW HRC Amendment -- Art. V, Secs. 5-1101 through 5-1103 - CC				
✓	YES		86,354	73%
	NO		32,566	27%
	Total	118,920		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 351 of 351 Precincts			
Orleans Parish wide Proposition (Bond) -- \$500M Bond - CC - 30 Yrs.				
✓	YES		76,792	66%
	NO		40,373	34%
	Total	117,165		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 351 of 351 Precincts			
Orleans Parish wide Proposition (Millage) -- 3.00 Mills - CC - 20 Yrs.				
✓	NO		63,678	54%
	YES		54,694	46%
	Total	118,372		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 351 of 351 Precincts			
Orleans PW Prop. (Short Term Rentals Occupancy Tax) -- 6 3/4% Short Term Rentals Tax - CC - Perp.				
✓	YES	77,642	65%	
	NO	41,248	35%	
	Total	118,890		
	Min: 0% Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 351 of 351 Precincts			
Orleans Mid-City Security District -- \$250/\$375/\$150 Parcel Fee Renewal - CC - 5 Yrs.				
✓	YES		2,971	62%
	NO	1,845	38%	
	Total	4,816		
	Min: 0%, Max: 100%, 100% Reporting 21 of 21 Precincts			

Data News Weekly Staff Report none

As the People's Paper, we encourage our citizens to get out and vote. In this election, people came out in higher numbers and we as a state defeated a sitting President

that has in many ways through his proposed policies constantly posing a threat to not only Black people but our Democracy.

This high Black turnout must be increased by even higher number as we enter 2020 where next year, we will have the Presidential Elec-

tion as well as local and state races on the ballot.

Also, we at Data News Weekly would like to congratulate those who were victorious on Election Day. And most of all to the citizens; keep getting out and vote, because Black Votes Matter.

THOUGHT PROVOKING NEW ORLEANS

DOWNTOWN INJUN CULTURE

BIG CHIEF Victor "Fi Yi Yi" Harris Jerome "Big Duck" Smith BIG CHIEF Clarence Delco

NOVEMBER 29TH
ENTERGY GIANT SCREEN (IMAX AQUARIUM)
6PM RED CARPET EVENT
7PM FILM PREMIERE
9M 2ND SHOWING



"To not have us, it's like gumbo... without the seasoning" - BIG CHIEF Darryl Montana

The Documentary they don't want you to see!



Gina Brown Performs at JAS

By June Hazeur Data
News Weekly Contributor
Photos by Terry Jones

On Saturday, November 16th, 2019, Gina Brown performed at JAS, New Orleans newest Live Entertainment Spot. The attendance was good. Gina sang a variety of song both old school and requested songs. The crowd was well-entertained. Within the crowd, there was a celebration going on at one of the tables with some of Gina's family and friends. She accommodated the audience when requests were made for more, she had performed for two hours without a break, but she sang a couple more songs. The show was great and very entertaining.



Pictured (L to R) June Hazeur, Teisha Goudeau, J'Vann Martin, Mark Goins, Sandy Holden, Ron Magee and his wife, Dianne Magee.

(L to R) Greta LaBranch a friend, Gina.

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



WE'LL TAKE IT
FROM HERE SANTA

BUILT FOR THE HOLIDAYS SALES EVENT



2020
F-150



2020
EXPEDITION



2020
ESCAPE



The Legendary Zulu Big Shot 2020 Champagne Toast at Tiffany & Co. New Orleans

Mardi Gras 2020 is the "Year of the Big Shot". The Legendary Zulu Big Shot 2020, Christopher K Wyre and his wife, Tamara J Wyre thought it only fitting to partner with the best in the luxury industry to kick off their journey to Mardi Gras 2020 ~ Legendary Shot Style.

The Champagne Toast was also focused on celebrating the King Zulu Elect 2020, the Zulu Character Class of 2020 and more importantly honoring Zulu history and tradition with grandeur. The Zulu Big Shot of 2020 in collaboration with Tiffany & Co. New Orleans revealed several signature Zulu pieces to special guests and city dignitaries during this illustrious event.



BUILT FOR THE HOLIDAYS SALES EVENT

GET GREAT
HOLIDAY DEALS

20% EST.
SAVINGS
ON SELECT 2019 FORD MODELS

PLUS
**EARN
COMPLIMENTARY
MAINTENANCE¹**
THROUGH FORDPASS REWARDS™

2019 ESCAPE SE FWD 200A

MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS \$27,720
-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$1,202
-BONUS CASH \$4,425

TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS² = **\$5,627**



2019 EXPEDITION XLT 202A

MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS \$62,140
-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$2,839
-BONUS CASH \$9,780

TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS³ = **\$12,619**



2019 F-150 XLT SUPERCREW³ 302A

MSRP BEFORE DISCOUNTS \$54,710
-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$4,113
-BONUS CASH \$7,500

TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS⁴ = **\$11,613**



**WE'LL TAKE IT
FROM HERE, SANTA.**



¹Modem must be activated within 60 days of purchase through the FordPass™ app on a smartphone and remain active for at least 6 months after activation. Eligible on select 2019 MY vehicles. Vehicle must have arrived at dealer at least 61 days prior to the sale date. ²Savings on 19 MY Escape includes \$2,750 Customer Cash + \$500 Select Inventory Customer Cash + \$1,175 Bonus Cash + \$1,202 National Average Dealer Discount. ³Savings on 19 MY Expedition includes \$2,000 Customer Cash + \$750 Select Inventory Customer Cash + \$7,030 Bonus Cash + \$2,839 National Average Dealer Discount. ⁴Savings on 19 MY F-150 includes \$3,250 Customer Cash + \$750 Select Inventory Customer Cash + \$3,500 Bonus Cash + \$4,113 National Average Dealer Discount. Average dealer discount is based on a sales survey of average discounts offered by Ford Dealers nationally. Discount may vary; dealer determines price. Taxes, title and license fees extra. For all offers, take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 1/2/20. See participating dealer for complete details.

As Bill Cosby Awaits Appeal, Support for His Release Grows



Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

More than a year has passed since Bill Cosby began a three-to-10-year sentence at a maximum-security prison near Philadelphia following his conviction on charges of aggravated indecent assault.

Throughout two trials – the first ending in a hung jury in 2017 and the second in 2018 that resulted in his conviction – Cosby had very few supporters.

Now, as he awaits an appellate court's ruling that could grant him a new trial or freedom, Cosby's support base appears more significant than at any point since charges were filed against him nearly four years ago.

Much of that support is on social

media, particularly fan pages that were established to help keep his legacy alive.

On Facebook, the "Bill Cosby is Innocent Movement," is followed or liked by more than 5,000 people. Also, a page called "We Believe Bill Cosby," has more than 2,000 members.

Cosby's personal Facebook page still has a robust, more than 800,000 people who follow or like the page. The "Cosby Show" page on Facebook contains more than 1.2 million followers.

Other pages, including "Bill Cosby," "I Support Bill Cosby," "Free Bill Cosby," combine for an additional 4,000 followers.

"We are regular laypeople of various backgrounds, diverse belief systems, and even different racial and ethnic backgrounds," Dr. Jay Raskin and other administrators of the "Bill Cosby is Innocent Movement" page, wrote.

"We do not condone or turn a blind eye to rape, molestation, or drugging. Indeed, some of us are the victims of rape, molestation,



Bill Cosby

sexual harassment, and gender discrimination but, based on what we have researched of the allegations against Dr. Cosby, we believe he is innocent of the charges leveled against him," Raskin states.

The administrators stated that the purpose of their site is to expose the truth regarding Cosby's innocence.

"We will also share information on how the media and legal system has been complicit in the lynching of yet another Black man – which is part of the American historical pat-

tern," the administrators wrote.

Nicole Lewis, one of the administrators of the "We Believe Bill Cosby" page, recently produced and released a 47-minute film about the Cosby case, titled "The Commonwealth Vs. Bill Cosby."

The film appeared on her "Nicole's View" YouTube page, and outlines Cosby's career, his controversial "Pound Cake" speech, the allegations by Andrea Constand that ultimately sent Cosby to prison, and the role she said the judge and media played in "bringing Cosby down."

Cosby responded to Lewis' documentary by tweeting his approval and thanking her.

"Nicole, I thank you for being fearless. Finally, America will have a front-row seat to witness the facts of my unjust conviction," Cosby wrote on Twitter.

"Thank you and thank you. #TruthWillWinOut, #FarFromFinished, #BillCosbyIsInnocent, #FreeBillCosby."

Many of his supporters have likened Cosby's plight to those of

the infamous McMartin Preschool Trial, and the Salem Witch Hunt.

"Indeed, the McMartin Preschool Trial, the Salem Witch Hunt was mob action based on falsehood; the destruction of prosperous Black towns by White mobs was based on lies, particularly of Black men raping White women and carried out through the collective and unified efforts of law enforcement, the Courts, a complicit media, and a prejudiced citizenry predisposed to believe guilt," Raskin and his colleagues said.

"So whether it's one accuser or one hundred, decisions must be made on the veracity of each person's case and if you only know one perspective (mass media), then you cannot adequately and truthfully come to an informed and enlightened evaluation of the circumstances of the Bill Cosby case. We believe he's innocent of the charges of rape, molestation, and drugging. You may not agree with a particular angle of some of the presenters but focus on the facts and decide for yourself."

In Louisiana's Elections, Voters of Color Made the Difference...

... And we helped make that possible.



Ashley K. Shelton
Executive Director,
The Power Coalition

This is Andreanecia Morris, the Executive Director of Housing-NOLA. We believe that housing is the foundation for an equitable New Orleans. We say #PutHousingFirst but we do not mean "housing only." With the recent elections, we wanted to discuss another critical issue, voting. Thankfully, we were able to reach out to a long-time partner and friend, Ashley Shelton and ask her to share her perspective in this week's column.

While political parties, candidates, and monied outside interest groups were busy spending tens of millions of dollars on TV, radio,

and digital ads for Louisiana's 2019 statewide elections, the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice (PCEJ) and our partners were out knocking on doors, hosting community events and candidate forums, calling and texting voters, and exploring every avenue we could find to engage and turnout People of Color all across Louisiana.

That hard work paid off. People of Color were the deciding factor in the November 16th Runoff Election, turning out at historically high rates all over the state. That turnout was especially high in the places where the Power Coalition and our partners—including Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), Step Up Louisiana, VAYLA, Black Voters Matter, the Movement Voter Project, Together Louisiana, and many others—focused our efforts. People of Color in New Orleans, Jefferson Parish, East Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Alexandria, and Lafayette all stood up and made sure they were counted in numbers we usually only see in presidential contests.

Ultimately, we made more 1.2 million attempted voter contacts through canvassing, phone banking, texting, and live events and spoke to hundreds of thousands of people. We hosted dozens of events, including community listening sessions and candidate forums. We made our presence felt in every corner of the state, in urban, suburban, and rural areas. And we made an impact not by telling people what to do or who to vote for, but by listening to them and connecting the issues they care about to their power to make the change they want and need.

But this wasn't about one election. It was one more step in a year-long, statewide movement that the Power Coalition has been building. We've seen real progressive change in Louisiana in recent years, and the people of our state, especially People of Color, are ready for more.

From criminal justice reform, like the passage of the unanimous jury amendment, to access to affordable healthcare to increased in-

vestment in our school, the gains of the past few years are obvious and tangible. People in the communities where we work are excited about those gains. They see them and feel them in their lives. But there's still a long way to go.

I've spent the past five years touring the state and listening to our communities. I can tell you that our people want greater economic opportunity, like raising the minimum wage and equal pay for women (LSU's 2019 Louisiana Survey found that 81% of the state's residents want to raise the minimum wage). They want to continue reforming our criminal justice system. They want a state budget that isn't balanced on the backs of working people. They want affordable housing and childcare. And they want their elected officials to be accountable to them, which means we need fair and equitable redistricting in 2021.

These are the things that we need to continue to fight for so we can realize the dream of a more

just and equitable Louisiana. That's why we'll continue to show up, and show up strong, in the months and years to come. We're going to build off of this victory and all of our previous victories to continue pushing forward.

Our organization's success is also another example of what happens when Women of Color build and lead social justice movements, especially in the South. By focusing on statewide coalition-building, direct contact with voters, and outreach to HBCUs and faith communities, we're building a foundation for long-term progressive change in Louisiana that's led by the people who are most directly impacted by bad policy and traditional power dynamics, namely, Women of Color.

Ashley K. Shelton is the Executive Director of the Power Coalition, a statewide 501c3 table in Louisiana. The Power Coalition uses a broad-based strategy that combines community organizing, issue advocacy, and civic action all while increasing the capacity of community organizations throughout the state to sustain and hold the work.

How to Start Investing for the Long-Term

NNPA Newswire

Learn about the investment options available to you that make the most sense for your long-term financial success.

Investing can help your money grow. But before you move your money to anything riskier than a savings account or IRA, you should review the ways you can do so.

Making well-advised investments comes down to cultivating the right mindset and getting educated about the options available to you. Investing can be a means to secure your long-term financial health, but you should also consider the risks attached to each investment option, and how these relate to your own willingness to take on risk. Framing investment risk against your own long-term priorities can help you decide what investment vehicles will be best.

Follow these key steps to hone your investing strategy.

Choose investment priorities

Ask yourself why you want to invest: Is it to prepare for retirement, buy a home, or start a new business? How much money will you need for your goals? Then, organize your investment priorities by the amount of time needed to achieve them. Writing them down can help you think clearly about which goals you have, and which you need to start with.

Your investment priorities should also be informed by your particular financial situation. You should invest no more than you can afford to lose.

That way, you won't jeopardize your short-term financial health as



you work toward achieving more long-term aims.

Invest in your company's employer-sponsored retirement plan

It's never too early to start investing in your retirement. Take advantage of your employer's plan, if they offer one. Set aside as much money as your employer is willing to match.

Employer-sponsored retirement plans can take many forms, such as a 401(k), 403(b), or 457(b). Some people choose to manage their own investment portfolio by investing in a mixture of stocks and bonds. A portfolio with more stocks than bonds is considered higher risk, along with a potential for high returns on investment, while a portfolio with more bonds than stocks will be the opposite. If you choose to manage your own retirement portfolio, think about which balance makes the most sense for you.

That balance could also shift over time depending on your risk tolerance as you get older. For example, as you near retirement, investing in less risky bonds rather than stocks could be a better approach. Generally, you can afford to take on more risk earlier in your career because you have time to adjust if the market takes a downturn before you withdraw

the money. Once you're closer to retirement, you'll want to take on less risk to help ensure your retirement funds are more secure when you need them.

Work with a financial planner

Everyone prefers a different level of autonomy when it comes to investing. While those who want to

retain complete control can pursue a self-directed investment strategy, many find it helpful to seek outside advice. You can get started by visiting the Hands on Banking® website to get an understanding of the basics of investing and retirement, like how social security works, or what the difference is between stocks and bonds.

Another option to consider for guidance is robo-advisors. These online platforms provide an automated investment service, some of which with access to human financial advice. You can also seek the advice of a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) to build a unique plan that works best for you. A CFP can help you manage your goals and simplify the complex world of investing. To find a CFP in your area, visit the Financial Planning Association's national database. See if there are free resources available to you locally as well.

As you plan to invest, keep your personal financial goals in mind and be ready to adjust your plan as your situation changes. When you prepare, investments can be a great way to help you reach financial goals.

ladatanews.com

The People's
Website



CUMULUS

THE POWER OF RADIO

TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, CALL (504) 581-7002



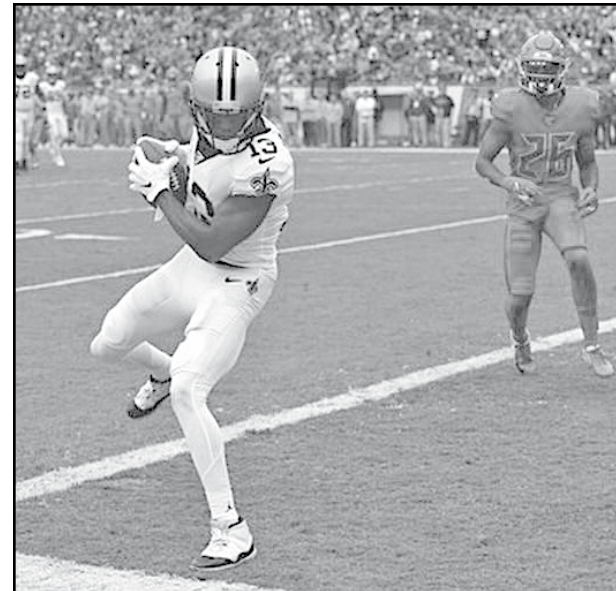
Bouncing Back



Saints Safety Von Bell and company had a great day on defense for the Saints.



Alvin Kamara had a standout performance with over 100 yards of total offense and leading the team with 10 receptions.



Michael Thomas continues to lead the league in receiving this season becoming the first player in league history with 90 plus catches in the first 10 games.

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Contributor

This ya peeps Fleur De Lis, back on deck after taking my own bye weeks of sorts. First off, I don't want to even begin to talk about what happened against the dirty birds. But on the real...I think it may have been a good thing to see how our Saints would bounce back after a loss.

I could say without a doubt, this

week showed what our Saints could do as they played with renewed intensity and focus handling business like the champs, we know they are.

Drew helped the team breeze to victory, going 28 of 35 with no interceptions in his third start since returning from a thumb injury that sidelined him five games. The Saints jumped out to 20-0 lead, controlling the ball for 20 of the game's first 25 minutes; before winning by a final score of 34-17.

As diehard fans we loved to see

our team win and, on this day, our 20-million-dollar man; NFL receptions leader Michael Thomas becomes the first player in league history with 90-plus catches in the first 10 games of a season. Good job Money Mike!!!

Alvin Kamara, who just returned from an injury showed out after a disappointing game against the dirty birds that he is one of the league's best both running and catching the ball. Number 41 rushed for 75 yards on 13 carries.

He also had a team-high 10 receptions for 47 yards.

Our D, "they did that" playing excellent throughout the game pressuring Tampa Bay's Quarterback Jamis Winston, who threw four interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown by safety Marcus Williams.

Also, with another loss by Carolina who we play next week; the Saints are three games up in the NFC South. Our Saints are no doubt getting it in as one of the league's

best and we are excited as playoff fever and talk about us second lining into Miami is what we are talking about in the N.O.

But before we get too ahead of ourselves, there are several weeks left in the regular season and the way things are going we are likely to win the NFC South.

It's good to be back with you the readers of our great City, chopping it up about our Saints and all things NOLA. Until next time this is ya peeps, Fleur De Lis, signing off.

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

ing. We are so wonderful, So magical, The producers don't have to embellish anything to tell the story of who we are."

Passing it on and the Importance of Black Masking Culture

The great New Orleans artist and scholar John Scott lived by the motto of Passing It On. This is what Big Chief Al Womble (Cheyenne Hunters) is doing with a tradition he's been practicing for over 50 years.

"I have been masking since 1963, my goal these days is to keep the culture alive by teaching the young guys and also my children, grandchildren, and my wife are participating in the Masking Culture. It is important to expose people to what we do in our rich traditions here in New Orleans."



District B Councilmember Jay Banks

The flavor of the City is unique as it is a blend of so many cultures coming together to create this jewel at the mouth of the Mississippi.

"New Orleans is not just a melting pot gumbo; it is like a twelve-course meal so much more to offer and so many layers. We hope this film can add value to the culture by telling who they are and by giving

their story back," says Lorrius.

Glenda McKinley, who is the daughter of the Legendary Larry McKinley, who was a music promoter, record label co-owner, radio personality and the voice of Jazz Fest.

Today she is the President and Creative Director of GMc+Company Advertising. She was able to view



Dr. Tia Smith, Head of the Department of Mass Communications at Xavier University.

the film and gives it a glowing review, "I think it is important work and an incredible deep dive into Indian Culture."

The Black Masking Tradition is an amazing part of New Orleans Culture and Heritage. But like many who create this culture many come to consume, they often times do not get the recognition, com-

pensation, and support they need. Jones is working to change that.

To learn more about BlackMasking.org or the Black Masking Injun Culture visit our website at blackmasking.org.

R.S.V.P by calling BlackMasking.org at 504-229-2062 or email blackmaskingfest@gmail.com. If you would like to donate, contribute or volunteer, please contact Mr. Chayil Glenn Jones at 504-495-6785 or email beulahprod@gmail.com

New Orleans Downtown Injun Culture Premiere November: 29th Entergy Giant Screen(IMAX) 1 Canal Place New Orleans, LA 70130. Red Carpet Event: 6pm Showing: 7p

African Americans Behind on Environmental Issues Part 3

Education and Information is Key to our Survival

Muhammad Yungai
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Environmental issues are not high on the priorities list among most civil rights and African American leaders. I've been in the "Movement" all of my adult life and we've rarely focused on environmental issues. We've generally had more pressing issues to resolve. But now, the environment has become so besieged that it has possibly become the most important issue for all of the creatures on earth. Of course, the other creatures can only do what they do and have not had a hand in the destruction of our natural environment. And in all candor, African peoples are not historically culpable either. It has been the advent of the "Industrial Revolution" which academics say began around 1750, which began the modern degradation of the environment. This has been primarily a European phenomenon. Two hundred years subsequent to the beginning of the industrial revolution, industrial production in Europe and America had reached its peak. By then, Russia and Eastern Asian nations, such as Japan and South Korea had joined in as well.

I grew up in Chicago and am old enough to remember when Chicago was the greatest industrial city in the world! We manufactured everything! I also remember that there were very few environmental regulations and that tons of pollutants and wastes were summarily dumped into Lake Michigan, the source of drinking water in Chicago. Smokestack industries such as the steel mills also pumped tons



The environment is one of the most important issues today because it affects not only humans but all creatures on earth. Blacks must make saving the planet a priority.

of pollutants into the air. Eventually, there was a local crisis with millions of dead fish washing up on shores of the Lake.

This scene was replicated in hundreds of communities around the United States prompting politicians to do something about it and in 1972, the Clean Water Act was passed. The newly created Environmental Protection Agency

[EPA] began to enforce its regulations. The Clean Water Act actually worked. Many lakes and waterways are in much better condition now than they were then. So, we know that we can make a difference.

Fast forward to 2019. We have learned, and now have a wealth of knowledge about the environment and solutions to its degradation, since those days, but other, even

more ominous contaminants and difficulties have developed over these years. Since 1955 we've had to worry about disposal of nuclear waste and more recently are struggling with the proliferation of plastics in our oceans and waterways. And believe it or not something as simple as microbeads in today's soaps could wind up being deadly.

The bottom line is that although Europeans and their descendants are mostly responsible for despoiling the planet, "saving the planet" is a job for all of us. There is absolutely no escape. There is only one planet on which man is fit to live, no matter what some modernists might tell you. Perhaps the planet and certain flora and fauna could survive the continuing slow holocaust caused by man, but it's for sure that we will become extinct if we do not change course. If a certain pharmaceutical company can boast, "better living through chemistry", then I can say that the side effects of that chemical enhancement can unquestionably destroy the planet.

Don't let anyone tell you that man-made climate change is a hoax. Modern scientists have proven that carbon-based emissions have altered atmospheric patterns which has been colloquially described as "global warming". Anyone who does not understand that putting trillions of tons of chemicals into the atmosphere for over 250 years has altered the climate is just plain stupid. But even if it doesn't, isn't it better to use the cleanest energy possible and clean up chemical side effects as much as possible? As African Americans, let's put our shoulders to the wheel, get educated and do our part to help heal our planet.

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to
place your classified ad.

Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. 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!

This space can be

yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421

This space can be yours for only \$80

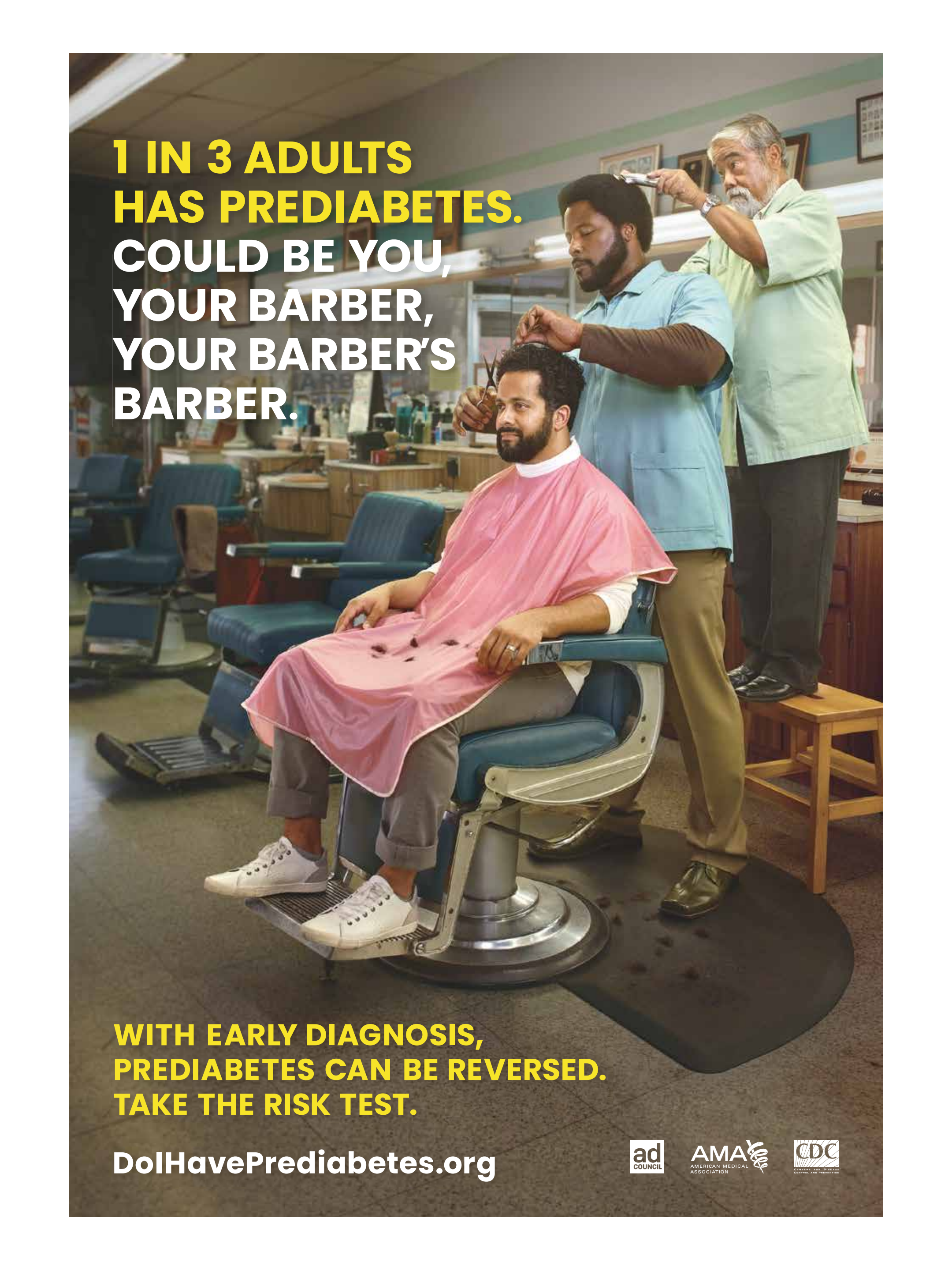
CALL NOW!!!

504-821-7421

follow us on

twitter 
@DataNewsWeek

ladatanews.com - The People's Website

A photograph of a man with a beard and dark hair sitting in a barber's chair, wearing a pink protective cape. He is looking towards the camera. Two barbers are attending to him: one is standing behind him, using clippers on his hair, and the other is standing to the side, using scissors. The barbershop has a classic feel with blue chairs, wooden counters, and various grooming products. The lighting is warm and indoor.

**1 IN 3 ADULTS
HAS PREDIABETES.
COULD BE YOU,
YOUR BARBER,
YOUR BARBER'S
BARBER.**

**WITH EARLY DIAGNOSIS,
PREDIABETES CAN BE REVERSED.
TAKE THE RISK TEST.**

DoIHavePrediabetes.org

