

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



'Kunta Kinteh Island' Screening

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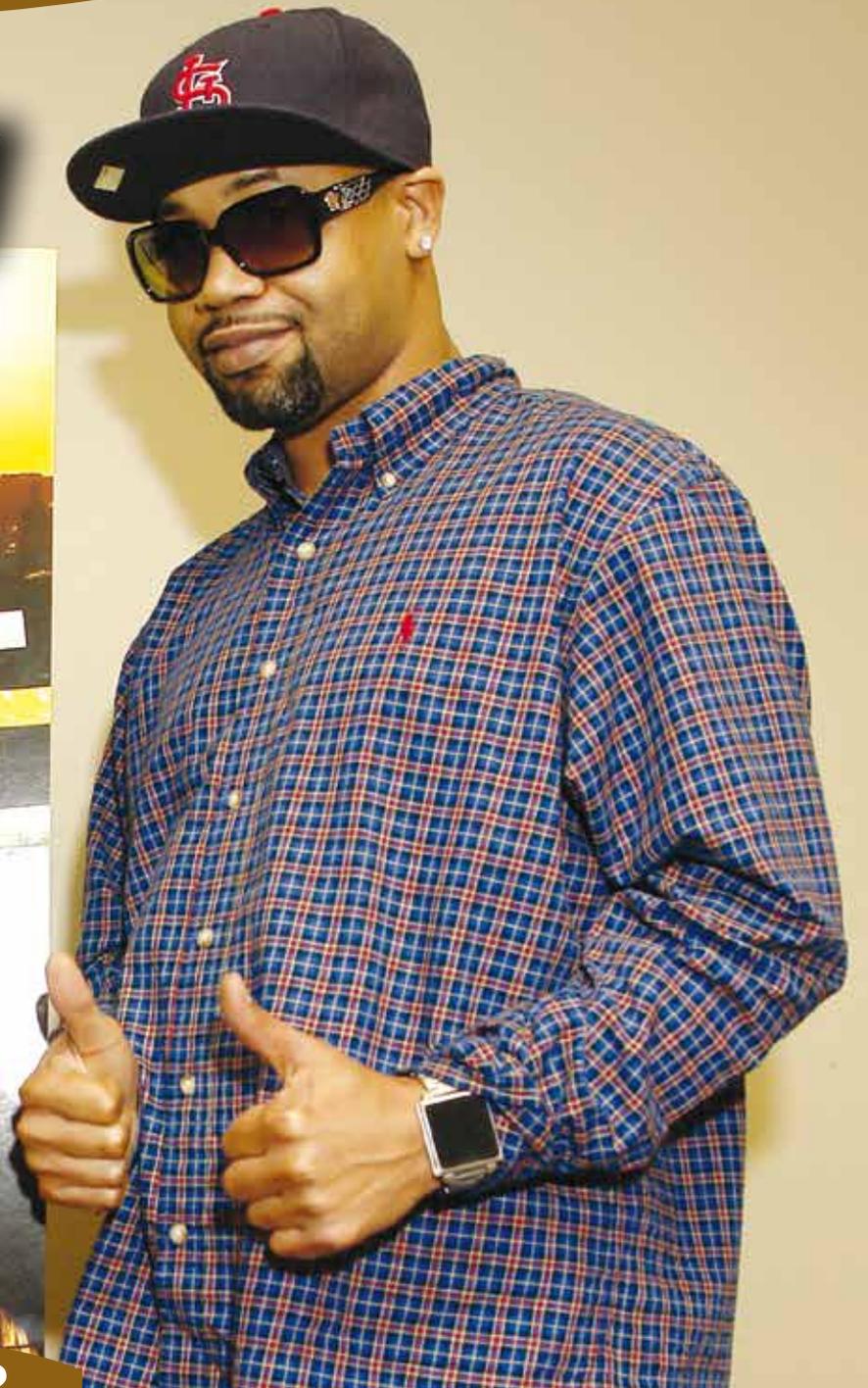
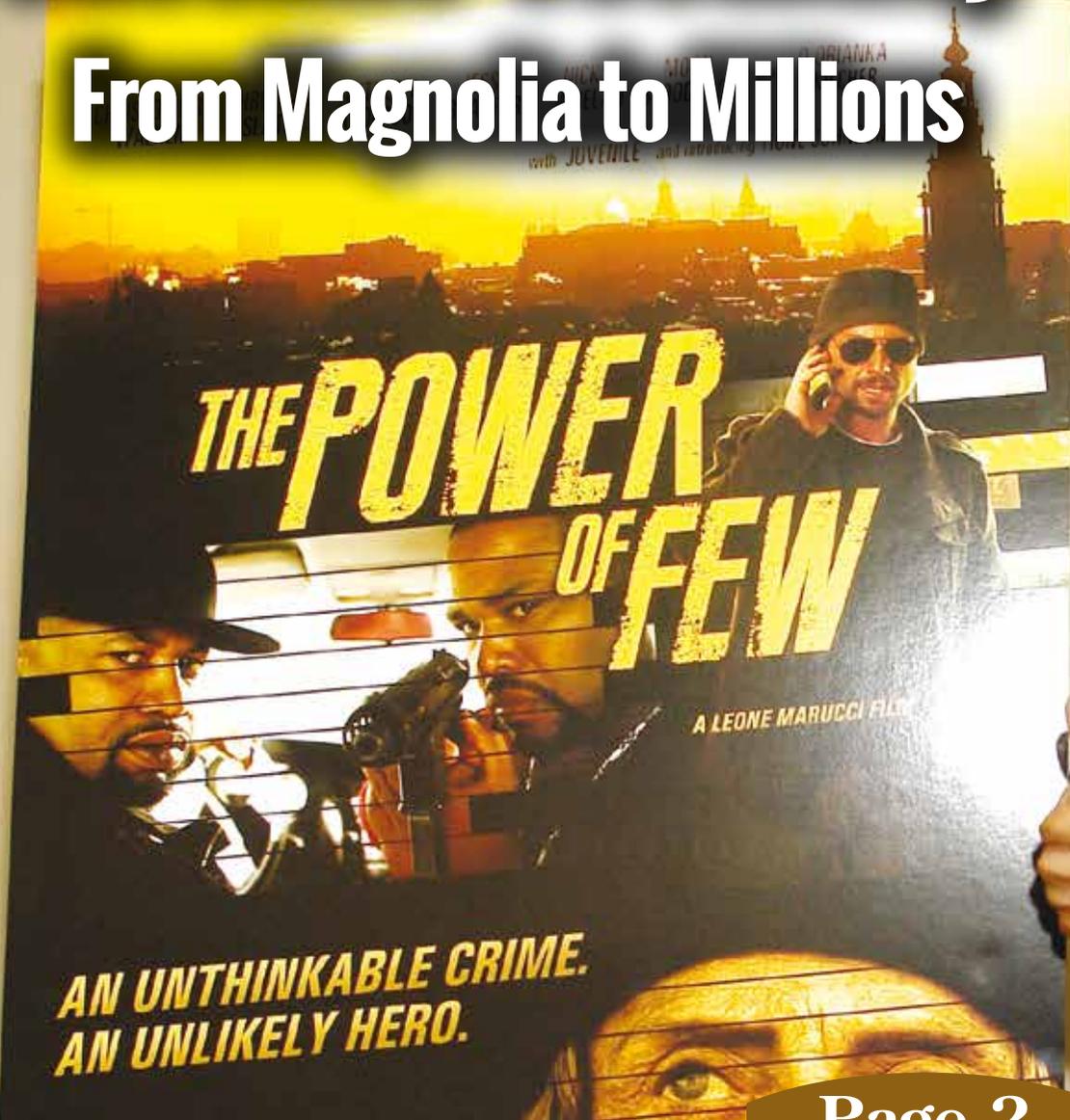
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Juvenile's Journey From Magnolia to Millions

A Data News Exclusive



Pictured above, Native New Orleanian Terius Gray aka hip-hop superstar Juvenile, sat down with Data News Weekly Editor, Edwin Buggage to discuss the release of the new movie he co-stars in, as well as his past, present and future projects.

By Edwin Buggage & Photos by Glenn Summers

He is the creator of a unique style of rap,

telling colorful, gritty stories of the Crescent City spitting rhymes laced with the unmistakable sounds of New Orleans speech and its cadence and rhythms marrying Mardi Gras Indian style singing with New Orleans colloquialisms and hip-hop. Juvenile (Terius Gray) has put his stamp on the music industry selling 16 million records throughout his career that spans two

decades. He has topped the charts with songs that have become stadium anthems and today he is entering into a new arena; as an actor in the upcoming film, *Power of a Few*. Data News Weekly caught up with Juvenile and spoke to him about his entertainment career, his City, family life, the possibility of a Hot Boys reunion, his evolution as a person and his future plans.

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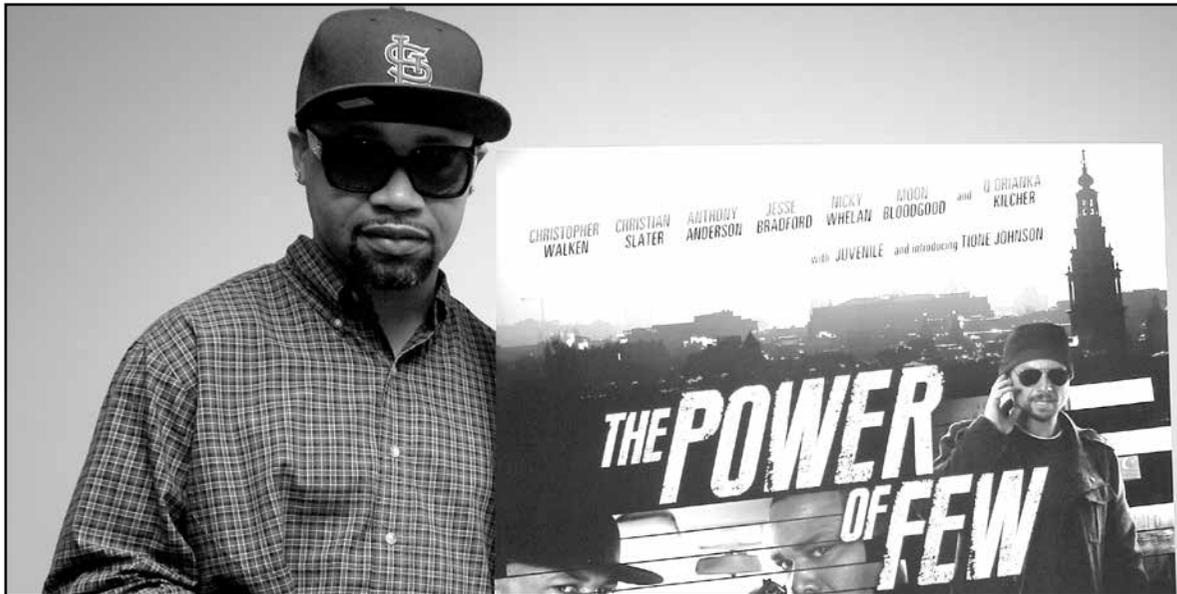
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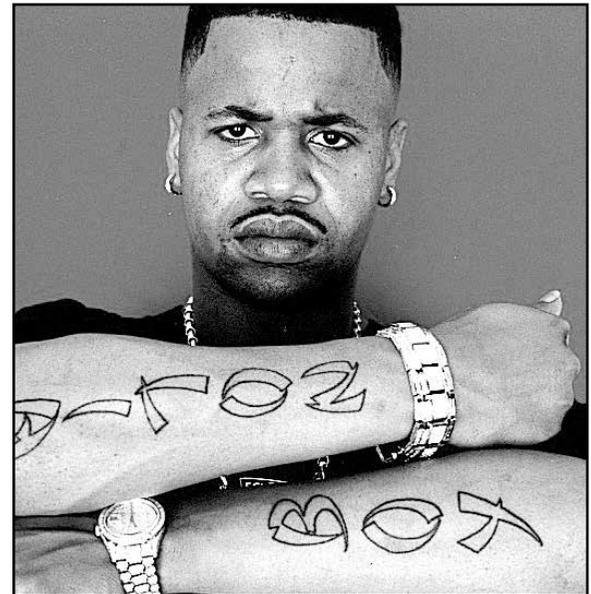
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On his new career path in the world of motion pictures, Juvenile says, "I always wanted to get into movies and we got a major opportunity to work with Christopher Walken, Christian Slater and Anthony Anderson that is what pulled me into want to be involved with this project."



Juvenile recognizes that his life is an example of when talent meets opportunity that dreams can come true. "I grew up uptown in the Magnolia Housing Project, but I didn't let that hold me back from doing what I really wanted to do and that was music."

Juvenile in the Movies: *The Power of Few*

Today as I sit across from Juvenile he is all smiles as he is accompanied by his wife who stands nearby snapping photos of her husband on her iPhone; also on hand was his Manager Aubrey Francis who before the interview spoke to me about Juvenile latest career moves. We begin with Juvenile talking about his burgeoning film career, "I always wanted to get into movies and we got a major opportunity to work with Christopher Walken, Christian Slater and Anthony Anderson that is what pulled me in to want to be involved with this project." The film is described as a religious conspiracy that collides with urban crime in a story told from multiple perspectives. The film was shot in and is set in New Orleans. It was written and directed by Leone Marucci and is chocked full of talent that also includes the title character, Few who is played by the precocious child Singer/Actress New Orleanian Tione Johnson. Talking about his future on the silver screen he says he is looking forward to doing more roles, but will take his time and be selective in his choice, "I don't consider myself an actor, but I happened to be in the right place at the right time, it was just a situation where this role was a good fit for me, I am sure there will be other roles out there coming my way, but if it doesn't fit me I am not going to do it, because I realize that I am still growing as an actor."

Inspiration: How to Make Something Out of Nothing

Many people know Juvenile as the guy who put Cash Money Records on the map nationally with his hits *Solja Rag*, *Ha* and *Back that Thang Up*, but his journey began early in the music industry as a teenager being part of the beginning of the bounce music phenomenon that would come to re-define New Orleans artists approach to doing hip-hop. Taking a walk down memory lane Juvenile talks about his career and how his life is an example of when talent meets opportunity that dreams can come true. "I grew up uptown in the Magnolia Housing Project, but I didn't let that hold me back from doing what I really wanted to do and that was music." Continuing he says, "When I started I was very young I got an opportunity to write for DJ Jimi, he kind of blew up and that was one of those situations where people wanted to know who was the cat working with him; and I was doing the writing, and I never looked back. Then I got a record deal and it didn't do well, but what it did was get people's eyes and ears open to what I was doing. And later on Cash Money Records

gave me a deal and the sky was the limit, seem like everything we did was perfect; I built a solid rap career off of it, I sold 16 million records and now I am able to shoot movies."

What Does it Mean to be from New Orleans?

Armed with massive talent Juvenile has been able to take his talent across the globe, recently doing shows in Europe and Asia. He like many New Orleanians has become ambassadors of sorts for the City since the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After the storm Juvenile released a song *Get Ya Hustle On*, with a powerful video shot in ravaged New Orleans criticizing the local, state and federal government's response. When asked about what is it that people asks most when they inquire about the City he says, "The number one question people ask me is how does the City look? I tell them our population is down, but the feeling is always there as long as the people are there. We have all the traditional things we use to do and we are still continuing to do. And as far as rebuilding, it is going to keep going on at least for the next 10 to 15 years, and while we are in a state of rebuilding, my City is beginning to beautify itself. I am excited about the future of New Orleans."

But while he has love for his City, when he looks at what is happening to certain parts of the City that's experiencing the forces of gentrification. This is a troubling trend for Juvenile as he talks about what's happening in Magnolia/C.J. Peete and public housing in general, "As far as rebuilding and beautifying the City, I am with that, but I am not with moving people from the neighborhoods they knew for most of their lives as home; I feel like the people who were there before deserve to be there not the bad seeds, but the good seeds. And I feel the good should not have to suffer for the bad; to me it look like it was a straight evacuate, clean out and start all over again and make sure the people who use to live there are not invited. I think as a whole it would have been better if they would have gone at it a different way."

Architect of Southern Hip-Hop and Hot Boys Reunion

During the late 1990's and early 2000's the south rose as a driving force in hip-hop. And still to this day southern artist dominate the music landscape as the artists who are enjoying the most success. Much of the southern sound was built on the production of Cash Money's in house Producer Mannie Fresh and No Limit led by Master P and his production collec-

tive Beats By the Pound. One of the super groups to emerge was the Hot Boys, whose members included B.G., Turk, Lil Wayne and Juvenile. During their string of hits they gained legions of fans who are eagerly awaiting a reunion. Juvenile relishes the idea, laughing he says, "I like New Edition, NWA, the Geto Boys, I wanted them to be together, and I've talked to Turk, Wayne, and Baby (Cash Money Records CEO Bryan "Birdman" Williams) so from my perspective I could see it happening but with B.G. locked up I don't know. I guess we'll see how that can happen, but I welcome the opportunity to make a record and tour so our fans could see us together again."

From Juvenile to Terius Gray

As a person whose come from humble beginnings and seen his share of ups and downs Juvenile is in a good place in his life and has evolved into Terius Gray (his given name), the husband, dad and savvy business person armed with wisdom earned from living and experiencing life. As he talks about his life he never forgets where he came from and is grateful for the place he's in, smiling brightly rearing back in his chair he says reflecting on his life's journey "I have a beautiful wife, a beautiful family; I got dogs that aggravate me 24/7. I got a lot of things to be thankful and grateful for; I got my health." Continuing with his voice shifting to a solemn tone, "I feel I am one of the blessed ones, one of the lucky ones. Half the cats I came up with can't see the light of day and some are still trying to figure it out and I can't do it for them, all I can do is reach out my hand and try to help them."

Today Juvenile is at legendary status, with the biggest selling record in Cash Money Records two decades of history, the 1998 release of the 4 times platinum *400 Degreez* is a certified classic. And as an early pioneer of Bounce to his evolution into a chart topping artist he is an important strand in the lineage of great artist that have hailed from New Orleans. While not even 40 years old he says that while he's had much success his best days lie ahead, of being considered a legend in hip-hop he says, "It makes me feel good when you hear your name in that light, in the same sentence with some of the people you've admired growing up. The feeling is unexplainable, but I am one of those people when people say things like that to me, I take it in and keep it moving because I am not that old and I am not finished yet."

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

'Kunta Kinteh Island' Arrives in New Orleans

Photos by Glenn Summers

A special screening of the documentary "Return to Kunta Kinteh Island" was held on Tuesday, February 26th at the Audubon Tea Room. The black tie, red carpet event was hosted by Dr. Debra B. Morton and the NOLA Host Committee. A Humanitarian Award was presented to honor Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson.

Produced by Elvin Ross Studios, the film was made to educate a new generation of Americans about the legendary warrior, to be a philanthropic effort to raise funds for the Albretha Jeffereh Primary School in Kinteh's impoverished Gambian village, and to develop an academic curriculum companion for the film.

The event offered a first opportunity to view the film and to lend financial support to the Elvin Ross Foundation. The Foundation will provide general funding, books and solar laptops to the primary school.



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Happy Birthday Ernestine Payne

Ernestine Payne celebrates her 60th birthday with husband Lucius and sons in Indian gear at the Autocrat Club.



Data Around Town



Pipeline to the People

By Corey Anderson

Question: Women in the 21st Century: what are the strides, gains, opportunities and challenges?



Joi Martin

“For a woman of the 21st Century, the possibilities are endless. I am afforded more opportunities than ever before. Though challenges have caused my life to take detours, I make a conscious decision to turn the negative into a positive. Therefore, every experience is worth gaining a life lesson.”



Juan Williams

“I’ve seen a lot of societal shifts especially within the last 20 years, like in Congress & business. Women in 21st Century are almost gaining the same amount of respect as men. One of the challenges is to be on the same plain because women still aren’t paid as well as men. I’m not a female, but being raised under a female is another challenge in itself. The family element isn’t there.”



Lisa McClain

“I’m really excited about the accomplishments. I look at where we’ve come from being in the kitchen to being the First Lady of the United States. I saw that a woman was nominated to be the first female President of an Asian country. From astronauts to politics, I think it’s phenomenal in what we can do with the help of God.”

New Orleans New Year!



Dr. Eric Griggs, MD
Data News Columnist

For the rest of the country January 1st marks the season of new beginnings, renewed spirits and resolutions to improve lifestyles and relationships. Here in New Orleans it's a different story. Though every year we fall in line with the standard recognition and celebration rituals, the season of renewal, for many, begins on the day after Mardi Gras - Ash Wednesday. With Carnival season being the culmination of a buildup of festivities that begins with Halloween, New Year's recognition tends to become little more than another party along the way. The resolutions made during this time are often made with the

thought in mind, "This is what I plan to do after Mardi Gras." With this reality, I thought it would be most appropriate to revisit the advice on "resolutions" during this Lenten season of sacrifice.

"Every year the same story, the same routine. We resolve to be better people, give up old habits, go to church, lose weight and the list goes on. The number of gym and church memberships spike for the month of January and attendance begins to taper after the first week. The year always seems to start with a bang and end with an excuse. The solution and secret to success is actually quite simple and easy to achieve. When making resolutions this year, KEEP IT SIMPLE.

1- Resolve to be more resolute.

The simplest resolution to keep is to be more determined in your actions, whatever they may be. Set goals for yourself that are easily attainable and can be built upon each week. Take the "one day at a time" approach, building a record of success along

the way. Start small, end BIG, but focus on remaining focused.

2- Choose to Lose One Bite At a Time.

One of the biggest mistakes that people make when attempting to lose weight is setting lofty goals and resorting to drastic measures. My grandmother always said, "Fast doesn't last. Slow down and do it right." When it comes to weight loss, these words ring true. Smaller portions of food and increased water consumption make the simplest recipe for success. Eat slowly, chewing each bite. Drink a bottle of water with every meal. Stop eating when feeling full-simple as that. Keep a food journal. This really helps. Honesty is key. Review it every day. Remember, no one is perfect.

The average amount of safe weight loss is between 1-3 pounds per week. The math for a successful year is that if we attempt to lose a mere one-pound per week, that's a 52 pound weight loss in 12 months. That's success in most circles.

3- Get Checked. Get Fit. Get Moving.

Before beginning to attempt any lifestyle change, health or otherwise, go to the doctor. Life moves quickly, and change is difficult. Without change there can be no growth, but the cost of change is stress. Make it a point to see your primary care physician within the first 2 months of the year and alert them of your new goals. You might be surprised by how helpful a physician can be to your plan.

The next step is to mentally prepare for the upcoming change by reminding yourself that each day is a new beginning and that change will be easier each day. Acknowledge your daily accomplishments and know that failure is not an option. Don't look back. Allow for minor setbacks, but learn from them and keep it moving. A strong mind is built by tests of endurance.

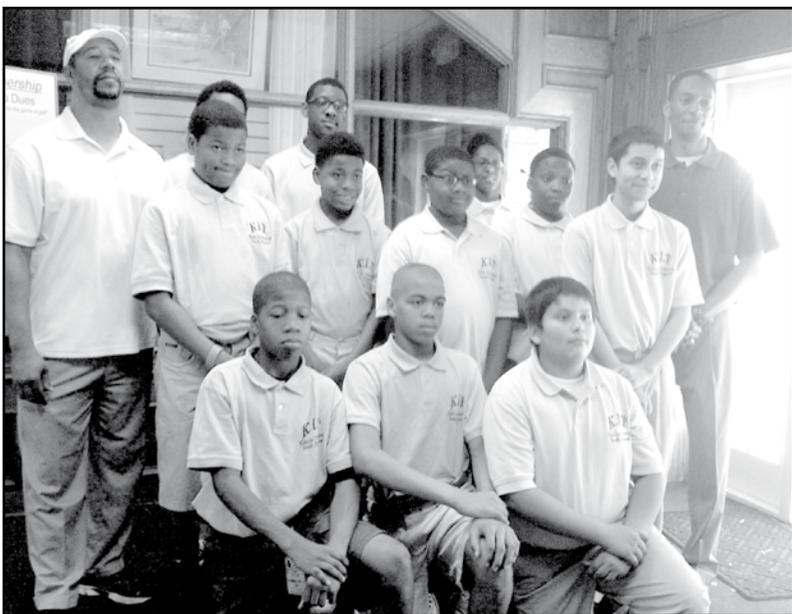
Finally, Get up, Get out and MOVE! It doesn't require a gym membership to lose weight and stay fit. Find something you enjoy and DO IT- daily. The key to weight

loss is a simple equation of in's and out's. The goal is to take in less than you burn up by MOVING. All activities, including dancing, walking, gardening, riding a bicycle, laughing, smiling, swimming and jogging burn calories and NONE of them cost large sums of money. Move it and Lose it."

Most importantly, when considering what to change or "give up" during this season of Lenten sacrifice; remember to consider changes that can be permanently adopted. Consider spiritual and character enhancements such as the addition of prayer or the elimination of procrastination, gossip and overindulgence. It is also a documented fact that prayer and meditation reduce stress levels by shifting brain activity from the stress-prone right frontal cortex (in the brain) to the calmer left frontal cortex (in the brain). Quiet, reflective moments are essential to the achievement of a balanced and healthy life.

(<http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Meditate-or-Pray-Every-Monday-Matters>)

Golf Tournament Held to Benefit Youth Program



From left: Shawn Morgan, Director of World Community Development Organization Right: Charles Dickerson, Founder and Executive Director of K.I.T. (Kids In Training) with program participants.

During NBA All-Star Weekend New Orleanian Charles Dickerson, Founder and Executive

educator at Boys and Girls Preparatory Academy. The K.I.T. Youth Program with branches in Houston and New Orleans is dedicated to help young men gain an appreciation of academics, enhance sports education and incorporate social skills to increase college and career awareness. Dickerson feels it is important to tap into the hidden potential of young people because they are the future. Mentoring occurs when a mature adult advises and provides guidance and advocacy for pre-adolescents and adolescents. The Golf Tournament included awards, door prizes, green fees and cart fees, practice balls and a lunch buffet. In addition, this movement is to provide scholarship opportunities for students in an inclusive manner reflective of the diverse school population.

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The Looming Sequester

And what it means for Louisiana

With few days left (at press time) before \$85 billion is slashed from U.S. Government's budgets, the White House has repeatedly issued more dire warnings about the harm the cuts will do to Americans, breaking down the loss of jobs and services to each of the states.

The estimates show how many teachers could lose their jobs in each state, how many toddlers could be kicked out of subsidized preschool programs, and how many children could lose funding for vaccines for measles and mumps.

But Republicans, who advocate budget cuts, said the warning was overplayed, and called on President Barack Obama to apply what is known as the "sequester" in a more careful way, rather than slashing budgets across the board.

"They've rolled out this great political theater about how cutting less than 3 percent of the federal budget is going to cause all these awful consequences," Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, a Republican, said last Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"Here's his chance to say, 'Here's how we can do it better,'" Jindal said, suggesting Congress and the White House give departments the ability to cut spending on less essential services.

However, to date, Lawmakers have not been able to reach what appears to be an unlikely last-minute deal with the White House to postpone what is known as the sequester, the across-the-board cuts will take effect Friday, March 1.

Obama has urged Congress to buy more time for a broad budget deal with a short-term measure that boosts revenues by ending some tax breaks for the wealthy.

Senate Democrats have put forward a plan that focuses on those tax loopholes, and this week Republicans are expected to propose alternatives. But there has been almost no negotiation between the White House and Congress on the issue.

Here's how the Sequester will break down in automatic cuts to families in Louisiana:



During a press conference earlier this week, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, (pictured right) suggested no new ground has broken between Republican leaders and the President, but - asked whether sequestration at this point is a definite - he repeated a line Mr. Obama used last week: "Hope springs eternal."

Teachers and schools

Work-study jobs

Head Start

Job-search assistance

Military readiness

Law enforcement

Child care

Vaccines for children

Public health

Nutrition assistance for seniors

STOP Violence Against Women

Program

Clean air and water

Teachers and schools

Louisiana will lose approximately \$15.8 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting around 220 teacher and aide jobs at risk. In addition about 26,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 50 fewer schools would receive funding. In addition, Louisiana will lose approximately \$9.8 million in funds for about 120 teachers, aides, and staff who help children with disabilities.

Work-study jobs

Around 540 fewer low income students in Louisiana would receive aid to help them finance the costs of college and around 110 fewer students will get work-study jobs that help them pay for college.

Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start services would be eliminated for approximately 1,400 children in Louisiana, reducing access to critical early education.

Funding for clean air and water

Louisiana would lose about \$2.5 million in environmental funding to ensure clean water and air quality, as well as prevent pollution from pesticides and hazardous waste. In addition, Louisiana could lose another \$884,000 in grants for fish and wildlife protection.

Military readiness

In Louisiana, approximately 7,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed, reducing gross pay by around \$35.9 million in total. Army: Base operation funding would be cut by about \$58 million in Louisiana. Air Force: Funding for Air Force operations in Louisiana would be cut by about \$8 million. Navy: A planned demolition project at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans and a scheduled Blue Angels show at Barksdale Air Force Base could be canceled.

Funds for law enforcement and public safety

Louisiana will lose about \$264,000 in Justice Assistance

Grants that support law enforcement, prosecution and courts crime prevention and education corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.

Job-search assistance

Louisiana will lose about \$509,000 in funding for job search assistance, referral, and placement meaning around 17,150 fewer people will get the help and skills they need to find employment.

Child care

Up to 600 disadvantaged and vulnerable children could lose access to child care, which is also essential for working parents to hold down a job.

Vaccines for children

In Louisiana around 1,730 fewer children will receive vaccines for diseases such as measles mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, influenza, and Hepatitis B due to reduced funding for vaccinations of about \$118,000.

Public health

Louisiana will lose approximately \$433,000 in funds to help upgrade its ability to respond to public health threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters and biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological events. In addition Louisiana will lose about \$1.3 million in grants to help prevent and treat substance abuse, resulting in around 1,300 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs. And the Louisiana State Department of Health & Hospitals will lose about \$320,000 resulting in around 8,000 fewer HIV tests.

STOP Violence Against Women Program

Louisiana could lose up to \$97,000 in funds that provide services to victims of domestic violence, resulting in up to 400 fewer victims being served.

Nutrition assistance for seniors Louisiana would lose approximately \$488,000 in funds that provide meals for seniors.

SOURCE: White House.

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