

Lighting The Road To Freedom

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

*"The People's Paper"*

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# Hurricane Evacuation Causes Many to Flee and Brings On Unexpected Expenses

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# Hurricane Evacuation Causes Many to Flee and Brings On Unexpected Expenses



Hurricane evacuees young and old, grandparents and grandchildren, settled into the safety of Red Cross shelters in Alexandria, LA before Gustav made landfall. Courtesy Kati Garner/American Red Cross.

## Edwin Buggage

New Orleans dodged a bullet when both hurricanes Gustav and Ike missed the city. Mandatory evacuation orders that restricted residents from returning to the city have left a different form of devastation after the storm has passed. Residents had to spend money to evacuate to safe havens, many using money allocated for

other purposes, which left them not knowing how they would pay for basic necessities such as food and shelter. An even bigger challenge for many is trying to determine how to get their livelihood back and maintain their own businesses in some instances.

Rosemary Nicholas, a lifetime New Orleans resident, is active in the St. Roch community and edits a newsletter dedicated to the issues

that affect her neighborhood. Nicholas evacuated to Dallas, Texas, along with her son and nephew to flee the storm. Glued to the television, she spent night after night watching to see if New Orleans would be dealt a fatal blow. Nicholas' son stayed at a motel, which required spending money on lodging and food.

As they returned to New Orleans, Nicholas found a city with people around her neighbor-

*Continued next page.*

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hood and across the city that had to return to face the danger of Hurricane Ike because they didn't have the resources to stay where they were.

"I miss my home and I would have stayed longer to wait the storm out, but I—just like a lot of people—just couldn't afford to stay away without assistance," said Nicholas.

The sounds around town were 'that if the next one comes, I might not evacuate because I can't afford it.' Residents deciding to forego evacuation created problems that were similar during Hurricane Katrina. So in the case of another emergency, what will the people of New Orleans do? Will they stay or will they go? Will they try to weather the storm hoping it does not hit, not because they don't want to evacuate, but simply because they cannot afford to leave the city?

Wilbert Wilson, an entrepreneur who owns a barbershop and several rental properties in New Orleans, chose not to evacuate hoping that some people wouldn't evacuate until Sunday. The bulk of Wilson's income is made on Friday and Saturday, so he wanted to stay to service people who were waiting to leave at the last minute and wanted to get a haircut.

"I just can't get up and leave, I realize I still have to pay bills that sometimes get behind, and as a small business owner, sometimes we are just getting by because our profit margins are not very large," said Wilson. According to Wilson, the costs of evacuating has a trickle down effect. "I have people who are good tenants, who unfortunately could not pay their rents in full because they didn't have the money, and because of that it affected me as well because they cannot pay, I can't pay the mortgage company their money,

so it affects all of us and it seems nobody's getting a break."

Residents who are working to build their trades are having a hard time as well. Jafus Smith Jr. is a contractor who had several projects delayed because clients could not pay the cost they incurred evacuating them and their families.

"It's not a good feeling to be losing money, but I realize people were ordered to evacuate. But when you think about taking several cars, paying for gas, food and

ful about fixing the house and having their children be able to be in more than just a house but a home. "We were excited about finally getting to work on the house, but having to evacuate has set us back," said Jones. "It broke our stride and has made us uncertain about rebuilding just to have it all blow away, or the levees may not hold up. For me it triggered Hurricane Katrina flashbacks and I think lot of people felt that way."

What are citizens to do in the case of a mandatory evacuation



President George W. Bush and Governor Bobby Jindal greet EOC employees, during disaster recovery efforts for Hurricane Gustav. Photo: Jacinta Quesada/FEMA

hotels, it can drain a family who is just making it by the skin of their teeth," said Smith. "I believe the city, state and federal government should take a more active role in suspending people from paying for certain things in the case of an emergency or give them a credit of some sort."

"We did take heed to the evacuation order, but I think it's wrong that when you come back you are in a worse condition because your livelihood has been interrupted and you are behind on your bills or in a worse shape, you could find yourself homeless," Smith continued.

Jamie Jones and Rodrina Rouge are a young couple with three children ranging in ages four to one. They just began to repair their New Orleans East home after a two year ordeal trying to get money from the controversial Louisiana Road Home Program. The young couple became hope-

order? Since the city was not hit by Gustav or Ike, residents of the city are breathing a sigh of relief, but because they are coming back to a life where many people are trying to scrape by to keep their heads above water, they may choose to stay next time. So as the city prepares through the end of hurricane season which ends in November, and in years to come will the big one ever come to topple New Orleans and should people choose to take heed to mandatory evacuation orders. And whether people choose to fight or flight route, after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike people are wondering which choice is right, because either way there may be some cost involved?



**On The Cover:** Stephanie Nickerson with her daughter Shaquell, age 1 year old, and her nephew Edward Jr., age 1 year old at the Dallas Conventions Center Red Cross shelter after evacuation from New Orleans for Hurricane Gustav. Courtesy Virginia Hart/American Red Cross.



A Hurricane Gustav evacuee waits patiently while his wife brings lunch served in a Red Cross shelter in Alexandria, LA. Courtesy Kati Garner/American Red Cross.



First Lady Supriya Jindal helps the Red Cross relief efforts by passing meals out to storm victims. Photo By: American Red Cross



Trucks full of ice and water are unloaded at the Union Passenger Terminal Evacuation Support Site by Red Cross Courtesy Abi Weaver/American Red Cross.

# 2008 Congressional Art Competition Showcases Talents of Area High School Students

The New Orleans Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, in partnership with Entergy New Orleans co-sponsored, and Congressman William Jefferson hosted, the 2008 Congressional Art Competition for High School Students, An Artistic Discovery, highlighting the artistic talents of high school visual artists in the Second Congressional District of Louisiana. Students from high schools across the Second Congressional District were invited to participate.

This first place winner, Logan Dixon, a 2008 graduate of the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA) and West Jefferson High School, recently flew to Washington to participate in the national competition where student art work from across the nation is exhibited. The winning piece from each congressional district is on display in the cor-



Congressman Jefferson poses with first place winner Logan Dixon, who is a 2008 graduate of NOCCA.

around people with similar interests had a profound effect on me. Also, I discovered that people perceive art in different ways according to their interests and personal experiences. The Arts should be expressed and encouraged to everyone, and I'm glad I was given an opportunity by Congress to present my work."

The New Orleans Chapter of the National Conference of Artists (NCA) is also supportive of the goals of the Links, Inc. and of the Congressional Art Competition. Charlie Johnson, local Chapter President, served as a judge in the 2008 competition. Mr. Johnson will serve as the contact person for high school artists seeking to participate in the 2009 competition. Interested students, or their parents, should send a name, mailing address, and phone number to Mr. Johnson at cjohnson330@aol.com.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of 12,000 professional women of color in 270 chapters located in 42 states, the District of Columbia and the

ridor leading from the Cannon House Office Building to the US Capitol for one year.

Second place winner, Aaron Spooner, a graduate of Brother



Sponsors of the Art Competition congratulate students on their accomplishment.

Martin High School and a first year student majoring in Architecture at Louisiana State University, expressed his appreciation to the Links, Inc., to Entergy, and to Congressman Jefferson in personal correspondence: "Participating in the 2008 Congressional Art Competition has reinforced my confidence as an artist. Being


Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

**Re-Elect** #88

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**CRIMINAL COURT SEC. K**



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 October 4,  
 2008

Judge Hunter has proposed a **Special Criminal Court for Contractor Fraud Cases**.

He **made decisions to enforce poor defendants' constitutional right to an attorney** after Hurricane Katrina devastated the criminal justice system.

Judge Hunter supervises the Mental Health Court which was started by Retired Judge Calvin Johnson.

He **partnered with Home Builders Institute on a program called Operation Reconstruct** to teach construction trades to offenders placed on probation in his court.

He is **working with the LA Department of Labor to start a Re-Entry Court in 2009** to provide life skills, educational and job training and placement services to offenders before they re-enter society.

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[www.judgearthurhunter.com](http://www.judgearthurhunter.com)

Paid for by the Judge Arthur L. Hunter, Jr. Campaign

# La. Workforce Commission Awarded More than \$22 Million to Fund Hurricane-Recovery Jobs, Vital Needs

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) announced that it has been awarded a grant of up to \$22.2 million to fund approximately 4,000 temporary jobs for cleanup and restoration efforts as a result of Hurricane Gustav. This work may be coordinated through public and private agencies and organizations engaged in such projects.

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded the \$22.2 million National Emergency Grant, which is part of the U.S. Secretary of Labor's discretionary fund and is awarded based on a state's ability

to meet specific guidelines.

Of the total award, \$7.4 million has been immediately released to the LWC. Additional funding up to the amount approved will be made available as the state demonstrates a continued need for disaster assistance.

"The USDOL grant will not only assist our citizens by providing a significant number of jobs, it will also help our state to more quickly recover from the effects of Hurricane Gustav," said Stacy Bonnaffons, Director of the La. Workforce Commission's Office of Workforce Development.

The grant will primarily provide funding for temporary employment on projects for the cleanup, demolition, repair, renovation and reconstruction of destroyed structures and public lands within the disaster-declared communities. These temporary jobs also include positions in support of projects that provide food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims. The grant will additionally provide for the full array of workforce development services, including training, that are available under the Workforce Investment Act to

assist individuals to return to the workforce as soon as possible.

The needs are being assessed in the disaster-declared areas and funding allocated through the coordinated efforts of the local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) working with the local governments in the area, businesses, non-profit entities and faith-based organizations. There are more than 30 LWC Business & Career Solutions Centers in the impacted areas ready to provide assistance on these temporary jobs and employment-related transitional assistance, including

training in high-growth, demand occupations and supportive services for individuals to return to the workforce.

These opportunities are available to individuals who are temporarily or permanently out of work as a result of Hurricane Gustav and to other unemployed workers in the affected areas. Individuals, businesses and organizations interested in the program should visit the LWC Web site at [www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net) and contact their local Business & Career Solutions Center listed on the Web site for details.

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## Hurricane Katrina Photo Exhibit at New Orleans Museum of Art Demonstrates City's Efforts to Rethink, Renew, and Revive

The photography of six local artists chronicling the power, pain and perseverance over Hurricane Katrina is being featured in an exhibition created by a photographer for the City of New Orleans at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Rethink, Renew, Revive features six large-scale photos by Dennis Couvillion, George Long, Samuel Portera, Zack Smith, Eric Waters, and Julie Plonk, a photog-

rapher in Mayor C. Ray Nagin's Office of Communications. Exhibited in pairs, the photographs demonstrate the city's efforts to "Rethink the future of New Orleans," "Renew the faith of New Orleanians" and "Revive the culture of New Orleans." The exhibition was originally scheduled to be presented as part of the Third Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina commemoration events but was canceled due to the City's prepa-

rations for Hurricane Gustav.

"These powerful photographs have captured the true devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the resilience of New Orleanians and the mental and emotional effects of a storm," said Mayor Nagin. "Rethink, Renew, Revive demonstrates how citizens and local government are reviving the culture of our city, and the faith and future of this community."

The exhibition's initial showing

on Saturday is an invitation only event co-hosted by the City of New Orleans. The photos can be viewed by the public beginning Sunday, September 14 with the purchase of a ticket from NOMA.

The City of New Orleans exhibition will be on view at NOMA until Oct. 26 and will be held in conjunction with the NOMA-organized exhibition, Coping with Katrina: Artwork from the Hyogo-NOMA Children's Art Therapy

Initiative, also on view in the McDermott Lobby through Oct. 26.

Coping with Katrina showcases artworks by children who lived through the 2005 hurricane and subsequent flooding. All of the pieces were produced by participants in the Hyogo-NOMA Children's Art Therapy Initiative, which has offered art therapy sessions at schools throughout the New Orleans area and at free day camps at the Museum.

### #68 PAULA BROWN JUDGE CIVIL DISTRICT COURT ~ DIV. F



**P**AULA BROWN has enjoyed an impeccable, 16-year career in the practice of law. In 2004, she was selected by the Louisiana

Supreme Court to serve as Judge Pro Tempore in Civil District Court, Division "M." Paula has earned the respect of colleagues

and litigants alike as fair and hard working. She attended Tulane University on a basketball scholarship, earning the Team Leadership Award for two years.

#### EDUCATION

- Juris Doctorate, Southern University Law Center
- Bachelor of Science in Management, Tulane University,
- A.B. Freeman School of Business

#### EXPERIENCE

- Litigator, The Hartford
- Judge Pro Tempore, Civil District Court, Division "M"
- Associate Attorney, Fine & Associates, PLC
- Trial Attorney, Regional Transit Authority

- Adjunct Professor, Southern University at New Orleans
- Staff Attorney, Orleans Indigent Defender's Program
- Judicial Law Clerk, Justice Bernette J. Johnson, Louisiana Supreme Court
- Judicial Law Clerk, Honorable Bernette J. Johnson, Civil District Court, Division "I"
- Associate Attorney, Law Office of Marie A. Bookman

#### PROFESSIONAL

- Louisiana State Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- National Bar Association
- New Orleans Bar Association
- Louis A. Martinet Legal Society - Past Executive Board Member
- Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & HONORS

- Franklin Avenue Baptist Church - Member
- Metropolitan Area Committee Leadership

- Forum - Fellow
- CityBusiness Leadership in Law Award
- YWCA Role Model
- World of Works Academy, New Orleans Public Schools - Mentor
- Girls' Basketball/Young Men's Midnight Basketball - YWCA Coach
- "What About Us" Back to School Giveaway - Co-Sponsor
- G. W. Carver Girls' Basketball Team - Camp Sponsor & Coach
- Day of Beauty Mentoring Outreach Program - Co-Sponsor

**Vote**  
**Saturday, October 4th!**

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Paula Brown  
[www.paulabrownforjudge.com](http://www.paulabrownforjudge.com)

## Early Voting Begins for Upcoming Elections

*New Date for 2nd Congressional District Democratic Party Primary Also Announced*

Registered voters who need to cast their ballots early for the Oct. 4 local elections can do so Sept. 20 through Sept. 27.

Voters in Orleans Parish will vote to elect a constable, district attorney, civil and criminal judges in several districts, and school board members for several districts. They will also have to vote on one amendment and one proposition. The Democratic Party will also hold its Party Primary on Oct. 4 for the 2nd Congressional District. Jefferson Parish residents will also vote for a number of seats including constables, council members, judges, Justices of the Peace, and a school board member.

Run-offs for the Democratic Party for the 2nd Congressional District seat will be held on Nov. 4 if necessary, with the General Election scheduled to take place Dec. 6.

**When going to polls, voters should remember the following:**

- Bring driver's license or other photo identification
- If voters do not have a photo ID and only bring documents that include name and address (utility bill, payroll check, etc.), they will have to sign an affidavit provided by the Louisiana Elections Division before they can vote.
- The main office of the Registrar of Voters for the parish will be available from 6 am to 9 pm on Election Day to address any concerns.

## Gov. Bobby Jindal Serves as Host of UNCF's First Louisiana Governor's Luncheon

BATON ROUGE, LA. - UNCF, the United Negro College Fund, the nation's oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization, today announced that Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal hosted and served as the keynote speaker for its first annual Louisiana Governor's Luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 17, held in Baton Rouge.

Proceeds from the luncheon will support UNCF's schools in Louisiana and its mission of increasing minority degree attainment by providing support to its member institutions and reducing financial barriers to college.

"Because a college education can open so many doors, UNCF works to ensure our future leaders have the opportunity to get



Gov. Bobby Jindal

the college degrees they need and deserve," said Therese Badon,

UNCF's regional development director. "The level of commitment in our community and this investment in future scientists, teachers, business owners, lawyers and doctors helps prepare young students to compete in the ever changing global economy".

"This event offers a special opportunity to not only highlight the success of this exemplary organization, but also showcase the accomplishments of the students who have been assisted by UNCF", said the Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana. I am excited to join other Governors across the country who host these luncheons in support of UNCF and its mission. A college education has become virtually indispensable—it is important that

we do what we can to assist the many students who have trouble meeting rising tuition costs."

The goal for this first Louisiana Governor's Luncheon is to raise \$100,000 to support deserving students in the Louisiana area who want to fulfill their dreams of earning a college degree.

Esteemed individuals who will be delivering remarks are UNCF President and CEO Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., and the Honorable Mayor "Kip" Holden of Baton Rouge, event Chairman. Other honored guests on the program are William A. Oliver, AT&T Louisiana, Dr. Norman C. Francis, Xavier University, Dr. Marvalene Hughes, Dillard University, State Representative Austin Badon, Jr., Mickey Moore, Wendy's Interna-

tional, Inc., and Dan Schuessler, ExxonMobil Corporation.

AT&T is the National Presenting Sponsor. Wendy's International, Inc. and ExxonMobil Corporation are local Presenting Sponsors. Additional luncheon Sponsors include Louisiana Lottery, Valero St. Charles Refinery, IEM, Dillard University, Xavier University, United HealthCare, Abide Home Care Services, New Orleans Saints, Belle of Baton Rouge Casino, AT&T Louisiana, ConocoPhillips, UPS, Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. and many more.

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# Legendary Gospel Group The Soul Stirrers to Release New CD: A Soul Stirring Reunion

*Quartet Continues Legacy with New Songs and Newly-Recorded Versions of Timeless Classics*

With the upcoming release of *A Soul Stirring Reunion* on Malaco Records, the legendary Soul Stirrers have produced yet another milestone in a career that has helped shape the world of music—including both traditional and contemporary gospel, R&B as well as Rock & Roll. In stores on September 23, 2008, *A Soul Stirring Reunion* will offer established fans as well as a new generation of music enthusiasts a trove of the group's great classic songs that have kept the magnificent quartet at the forefront of traditional gospel since their 1926 formation by Silas Roy Crain.

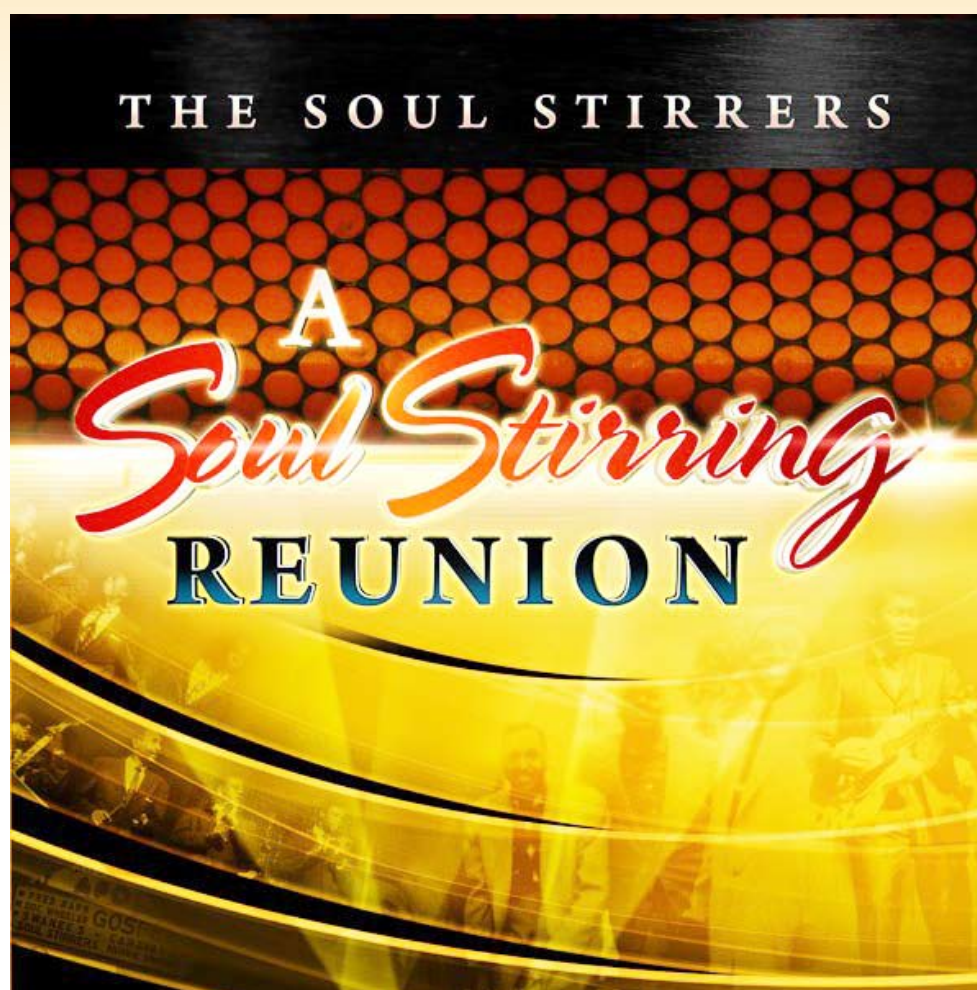
The group's new album brings life to such gospel music benchmarks as the much-loved Soul Stirrers perennial, "The Love Of God," the first single to be released from the CD. The song is a standout, featuring the lead vocals of special guest Floyd Taylor, son of the late Johnnie Taylor, a member of The Soul Stirrers from 1957 until 1961. Other music benchmarks include "Be With Me Jesus," "Nearer To Thee," "Wade In The Water" and "Lord Remember Me," all staples in The Soul Stirrers' vast repertoire. Other highlights include "Oh What A Meeting," "Resting Easy" and two songs originally arranged by Sam Cooke—"Stand By Me Father" and "The Last Mile of the Way." A true jewel is the wonderful, heartfelt rendition by Reverend Luther Gamble of the memorable, "Peace Be Still." Johnnie Taylor was featured on the original of "When The Gates Swing Open," revived on this new album with a blues-tinged rendition by Eddie Huffman. The famous Soul Stirrers harmonies that set the trend for so many oth-

ers in the gospel world are also reflected in the stirring new upbeat original tracks—"We're Going To A Meeting," and "I'm Still Here"—both written by project producer and guest vocalist, Darrell Luster of the Sensational Nightingales.

The line-up for *A SOUL STIRRING REUNION* consists of long-time member LeRoy Crume who first joined the Stirrers in 1955, brother Arthur who began playing guitar with the group in 1965, Eddie Huffman, a Soul Stirrer off and on since 1973, Willie Rogers, a member at different times since 1965, and Reverend Luther Gamble, who first joined the group in 1974.

LeRoy Crume, whose individual credits include work with Aretha Franklin and The Staple Singers, recalls that the group was approached in late 2007 by Malaco Records, long a bastion for traditional and contemporary gospel music. "The group had been doing performances here and there, somewhat sparingly, but we always stayed in touch," says Crume. "I'd been away from the music business for a while, so at first, I was a little cool towards the idea but once I got together with the other guys in the group and we met with Malaco, the juices started flowing again."

Malaco Records executive D.A. Johnson notes that *A SOUL STIRRING REUNION* follows a similar project the label did with The Caravans. "As a company known for working with the legends in gospel music, we felt it was important not just for traditional gospel but for music in general to have a new recording by The Soul Stirrers," says Johnson. "There's no bigger name in the quartet genre than The Soul Stirrers."



The Soul Stirrers are considered pioneers, trendsetters and trailblazers in the world of music, bringing inspiration and joy to church congregations, concert hall audiences and festival-goers for a remarkable eight decades. Honored in 1989 by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of 'Rock's Early Influences,' The Soul Stirrers are justifiably remembered as one of gospel music's premier vocal quartets.

The group was formed in 1926 in Trinity, Texas led by Silas Roy Crain with lead singer Rebert H. "Pop" Harris, and moved to Chicago in 1936, where they became one of the very first gospel groups to travel and charge admission for

their performances. The Soul Stirrers' commanding vocal style and incomparable harmonies, quickly earned them name recognition and during the '40s, the group became known, in particular, for having two lead singers within its ranks. The arrival of Sam Cooke in 1951, replacing R.H. Harris who was featured on the group's very first recordings for Specialty Records, dramatically changed the appeal of The Soul Stirrers. With his dashing good looks, Cooke quickly became gospel music's first heartthrob, stepping out on an immediate and huge hit for the group, "Jesus Gave Me Water." This would be the first of many classic songs Sam Cooke

would deliver that helped create a lasting repertoire for The Soul Stirrers. After Cooke left in 1957 to pursue a secular career, he was replaced by former Highway QC's vocalist Johnnie Taylor, who also left the group in 1961 after five successful years fronting the group to pursue a solo career in R&B. Other vocalists featured during the group's

# Fairytales Do Come True

Data News Weekly attended the fairytale wedding of twin sisters Tania Dorothy and Tamia Helen, daughters of Barbara Rouzan Randolph and Allison Bernard Randolph, held Saturday, Sept. 13 at the St. Louis Cathedral. The joyous reception followed the ceremony and took place at the Riverview Room in Jackson Brewery. Everyone at the wedding and reception had a wonderful time. Tania Dorothy joined Kurt Ian Rishi Hackett in Holy Matrimony, and Tamia Helen married David Alfonso Alvarez. Here are a few pictures from the memorable occasion.



**1.** The wedding party takes a moment to pose for photographs in front of the St. Louis Cathedral **2.** A proud father, Allison Bernard Randolph escorts his two daughters down the aisle to meet their grooms. **3.** (from left to right): Tania Dorothy, Barbara Rouzan Randolph (mother), and Tamia Helen.



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THE BEST  
FILMS OF  
THE YEAR.**

**HONEST, POWERFUL  
AND INSPIRING,  
IT’S ONE OF  
SPIKE LEE’S  
BEST, AND MOST  
IMPORTANT  
FILMS.”**

**Ben Lyons, E!**



## A SPIKE LEE JOINT MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA

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A FORTY ACRES AND A MILE FILMWORKS PRODUCTION  
A SPIKE LEE JOINT "MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA"  
DEREK LUKE MICHAEL EARY  
LAZ ALONSO OMAR BENSON MILLER  
PIERFRANCESCO FAVINO VALENTINA CERVI  
ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY BY TERENCE BLANCHARD  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARCO VALERIO PUGINI JON KLUK  
PRODUCED BY ROBERTO CICUTTO LUCI MUSINI SPIKE LEE  
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# Janice Meredith

## *Style and Substance*

by: Edwin Buggage



The barbershop and hair salons have had a historic significance in the African American community. It is a place where we discuss the issues that affect our lives. It is a place that connects us as people and as a community.

September's Trailblazer is a woman of style and substance. Janice Meredith is a young woman on a mission. She is beautiful, poised and passionate about being an example for young black women. She has owned her own salon called Simply Divine for nine years.

"I am an owner of a small business, and I have worked hard to make it a success. And now I want to pass on what I've learned to others and inspire them so that they can fulfill their dreams," said Meredith.

She began her mission of helping people through listening to her clients talk about their hopes, dreams, and aspirations. "I would listen to a lot of them talk about things they wanted to do, and many of them had great ideas, but didn't know how to make it happen. So, I felt that I could be that bridge to give them the information and inspiration that they needed to make their ideas a reality. Or if they had a small business, how to take it to the next level," said Meredith.

Over the years she has used her salon for a variety of purposes including hosting women's book clubs. In the process they became therapy sessions for women who experienced a host of problems ranging from balancing family and work, to dealing with single motherhood and domestic abuse.

Meredith is the founder of Barbers Saving Brothers and Stylists Saving Sisters. It is a program designed to help mentor young people. "We cannot continue to blame other people for why we don't succeed. We need to work together as a community to give our young people a hand up, and that's what we do with these groups," said Meredith.

"It is important that we give each other what we need to grow and prosper. We need to nurture our own if we are to help them reach their full potential," she continued.

She talks of the importance of the barbershop and beauty salon and how it can serve as more than just a place to come and get beautiful, but a place that could spawn community involvement.

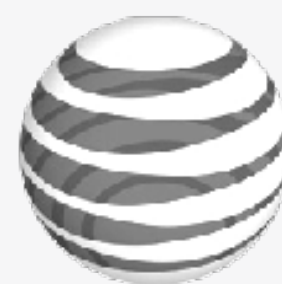
"In our community, the hair salon is the place all of us come to at some point in our lives, and we just want to take what we talk about we should do and actually try do some of them," said Meredith.

She has also given seminars and workshops called "Divine Ladies" where she assists others on how they can better organize their businesses and increase their bottom lines. "Sometimes we as blacks in business are just concerned about surviving that we don't think about how to grow a business. I just want to share information as an entrepreneur," said Meredith. She added that she wants to show others that if she was able to do it, so can they. It simply takes planning, hard work, organization and dedication, according to Meredith.

In this year of the superwoman she seems to have it all. Janice Meredith is a wife and mother to a four year old, and a successful businesswoman who has reached out to help others make their dreams a reality. Living a life that allows her to make many people look beautiful on the outside, she has given the gift of her knowledge to help people overcome obstacles to success. She is just as her salon's name, "Simply Divine" and a woman of style and substance. We honor her commitment to the community by recognizing her as New Orleans Data News Weekly's Trailblazer for September 2008.

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# ADVERTISE

## In The Spirit

## Love and Relationships



Dr. Aaron E. Harold  
Data Columnist

Hi Family, today I'm going to talk to you a little on love and relationships. First, we need to understand that Love is not automatic, it is taught to us. Most of the time it may have been your parents, relatives, or a close friend that taught you how to love. To truly love someone, this must be a decision that you and only you must do on your own. Family, love is something more than an intense liking; it is the attachment to and caring about another person.

Attachment involves a powerful desire to be with and cared about by another person. Caring involves meeting the satisfaction of another person's needs as significant as the satisfaction of your own. In other words, love is not just about being on the receiving end, but it's about you giving of yourself. Love involves trust, understanding, mutual assistance, and caring about your spouse or partner. In relationships, we must learn how to serve that person, and maintain a physical closeness to him or her.

For a true relationship to work, you must nurture it. Family, for you who are in relationships now or plan to get in a relationship, there has to be a balance in that relationship. Let me put it like this, you can't put 40 percent into the relationship, and expect to get a 100 percent profit on your investment. There's a rule of thumb that says, "What you put into a relationship, that's what you will get out of it." Love and relationships is not just a story that we read about or see on television like

Romeo and Juliet, or Cinderella and the Prince, but it takes real work to make a good and loving relationship work.

Many relationships don't have to end the way that they do. If you really want to have a good loving relationship folks, again you have to work on it. There is no perfect relationship, because we all make mistakes. Also, in a relationship no one will always agree upon everything. There will be arguments, verbal fights, and threats to leave in a relationship.

Family, love can be a battle in a relationship, but isn't it all worth it when you really love someone? When you are in a relationship and really love that person, you must treat the relationship like a garden. It needs ongoing cultivation, but hard work is the key to a successful, loving relationship. If one person is not receiving that nurturing, then he/she will get dissatisfied and eventually leave in search of true love. Family, few relationships last forever, because most couples do not go the extra mile to make that relationship last.

Folks, what causes relationships not to last? Researchers suggest that an unequal commitment by one person can be a major problem in a relationship because one person is less involved than the other. However, when both persons are equally committed, the relationship may be quite stable. On the other hand, some break-ups are necessary when you or the other person falls out love.

Family, let me ask you this question, "When was the last time you told your spouse, or the one you love, that you love them? When was the last time that you said you appreciated your spouse? And when was the last time you told that person that you will be there in good times and rough times?" Maybe if you haven't, you should try. It might improve your relationship with that person. Remember this, it's a beautiful feeling to truly be in love. It's healthy for your soul and soothing to your mind. Family, can we all get along? Let's try loving more.



## Commentary

## In Natural Disasters, America is Lacking a Culture of Preparedness



Retired Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré  
NNPA Columnist

America needs a culture of preparedness. We are seeing that more state governments are struggling in response to recent disasters. Recent Red Cross data shows that for every dollar spent on preparedness, it saves six to nine dollars during disaster response and recovery. As many have seen, disasters cause drama, drama for state governments especially when plans don't execute or the storm trumps the states capability to deal with the disaster response.

"Blame the Federal government and FEMA", that is the get-out-of-jail-free card that the state governments have. We can do better, this America and one solution is to transform state government.

First and foremost, we have to optimize technology. We need to issue disaster assistance cards which can easily be activated and provide financial assistance to those who need it. Secondly, all state employees should be trained to register folks for relief following a disaster, which currently few states are trained to execute when needed. Officials also need to be mindful to pre-position food water and tarps in communities, as well as use local businesses to serve as a large part of the area's disaster response. Each area affected should have assistance locations and they should be well-marked. They shouldn't block major roads and supplies should be given to anyone who shows up, no matter what county they are from.

Cities should utilize resources and use local businesses as an integral part of the disaster response. Businesses should be aware of response logistics and local governments should have pre-arranged contracts with local businesses to provide emergency goods and services. One idea would be to have local businesses provide hot meals at fixed prices – approximately \$8 each.

Officials should also think of the residents in disaster areas as resources as well. School systems in each state should integrate disaster preparedness and first aid into its curriculum and every college graduate should be first aid certified. We need to involve the members of our com-

munities, where we can create a civilian response corp in each community. I like to call them "men of consequence" – those who volunteer their time and talent to create resilient communities. These volunteers would be prepared and trained to clear debris from roads and help shore up levees. They would be taught how to operate distribution points and help evacuate communities.

A very important point that I must make is that local officials must assure that residents in our communities have power. It is imperative that various laws are passed that will require gas stations and drug/grocery stores to have generators. When cities lose electrical power, our quality of life regresses back 80 years - people have no television, no running water or working sewer, no internet or cell phones. Facilities such as hospitals, courthouses and emergency response stations should have mandatory generators on the 2nd floor in order to protect the power source. As we saw during Hurricane Katrina, many City of New Orleans public buildings did have generators – but unfortunately they were in the basement or at ground level which did not serve them in the disaster.

Lastly, officials need to improve evacuation contra flow. We need full use of interstate highways. The federal government owns the flow on the interstate but during hurricane Gustav, unfortunately, we saw city, state and county officials blocking traffic on interstate highways. This policy needs to be reviewed and the act of surrounding states rerouting traffic to protect the flow of tourist traffic to local resorts is unacceptable. Going 40 miles in 12 hours is another disaster in the making.

We need to create a culture of preparedness in America. Our forefathers knew how to take care of themselves, their families, and the communities in which they lived. As citizens, we need to be prepared to do that same - we can not wait on the federal government to do it for us. For more information, go to [www.CNN.com](http://www.CNN.com).

Retired Lieutenant General Russel Honoré serves as Emergency Preparedness contributor to CNN Worldwide. He focuses exclusively on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities, with multi-sector integration of emergency management. Then Lt. Gen. Honoré was also recipient of the NNPA 2006 Newsmaker of the Year Award for his leadership and sensitivity during the Hurricane Katrina disaster in New Orleans. Before retiring, he commanded Joint Task Force-Katrina. In that capacity, he led the Department of Defense response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and directed the operations of more than 22,000 Service members, 200 aircraft, and 20 ships.

# Symbols and Solutions: Palin and Women



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

What happens when you smear lipstick on the snout of a pig? The lipstick-wearing pig will still have a snout. Pigs and lipsticks have been mentioned far too often in this 2008 presidential election, so much so that one might think there were either an earmark for lipstick in question, or one for pigs.

There are other adages that can be used to say you can dress it up, without changing it's character. From the Bible – you can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear. From my grandma – you can't make chicken salad out of chicken spit. Pigs and lipstick are a diversion from the real issues – war, a sagging economy, rising oil prices,

a frayed education system, global warming, and a health care system that doesn't cover everyone.

Still, lipstick is a metaphor for the powerful gender undercurrent in this election. Hillary Clinton energized women, but she didn't win the Democratic nomination, and Barack Obama didn't pick her as his running mate. Some of her supporters got over it, but some were angry and disappointed.

Then, John McCain grabbed momentum and the spotlight by choosing Sarah Palin as his running mate. The woman fascinates – she describes herself as a pit bull with lipstick. Because she is so new to the scene, we've had a crash course on her life, her marriage to her high school sweetheart, also known as First Dude in Alaska. We've learned about her five children, including her disabled infant son and her pregnant teenage daughter.

We've learned about her commuting habits and the fact that it costs the citizens of Alaska about \$60 a night for her to stay home (that's on top of her salary). Biographical curiosity is only part of the Palin fascination.

Neither party has yet to “do the right thing” by women, either in terms of elected public office and in terms of the public policy that supports working women.

Still stuck in “the mommy wars” between women who work and those who

stay at home, millions who either joyfully or painfully juggle household and work. 1992 was the so-called year of the woman, when Patty Murray (D-Wa.) ran for the Senate describing herself as a “mom in tennis shoes”. With no woman on the Senate Judiciary Committee when Anita Hill was treated so poorly, and Clarence Thomas was confirmed to the Supreme Court, women's anger translated into political success. An unprecedented five women were elected to the United States Senate, including Murray, Carol Mosley Braun (D-Ill), Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), and two Democrats from California, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein.

Fast-forward 15 years. There are now sixteen women in the United States Senate, which represents slow progress. Many of the issues that outraged women in 1992 are unresolved in 2008. Working women still have challenges juggling household and work. Many who can afford to opt out, choosing to stay home and raise their children.

Most wonder that public policy cannot do more to address the concerns of both a vital segment of the population and an important part of the productive labor force. At the top, women bang their heads against the glass ceiling that Hillary Clinton spoke of so eloquently.

At the bottom, at the sticky floor, there

are poor women who do don't earn a living wage to work as private household workers, nurses' aides, waitresses, and teacher's aides.

They catch childcare as they can, and occasionally slip into bankruptcy because of unpaid emergency room bills. They cobble together paychecks from full time jobs and part time jobs, and they don't call it gender, they just call it a hard life.

Enter Sarah Palin and the unfinished agenda of work and family. While Palin is a symbol, she has not ideologically embraced a working women's agenda. Indeed, she'd shrink government, and even force raped women to pay the cost of their rape kit. But with those five children and First Dude surrounding her, Palin looks like she shares the challenges that so many working women face, juggling aspirations, career, and family.

The conversation about these challenges has been simmering for decades, and this new face on the national political scene has struck the lightning rod of women frustrated by the man's world that is both politics and the workplace.

The work and family conflicts aren't going to be resolved anytime soon. Sarah Palin may be a symbol, but she's not a solution; not even with lipstick.

## “Are You Ready to Party?”

Michael G. Shinn

We are in the last fifty days of what is being advertised as “the most historic Presidential Campaign in our lifetime.”

Get ready for a loaded cocktail of campaign rhetoric, charges and counter charges, misdeeds and stern faced political promises. The electoral atmosphere is so full of hot air that it's hard to sniff out what the real issues are. This is national drama, reality TV and “late breaking” news at its best.

In a strange way, I have a similar feeling at Christmas time - when the historic significance of the event has been trampled by the omnipresent media hype and I feel like someone is trying to sell me something that I don't need, for their own personal gain.

### What a Party!

Democracy, the Right to Vote

and the fair election of government leaders are essential to the American Way of life. Political and economic freedoms are the underlying principles that create the environment to make our standard of living the highest in the world.

However, as I watch the political process unfold, I wonder whether we are preparing for a serious election or are we getting ready for a party? In fact, these happen to be a couple of very expensive parties. It is estimated that both presidential campaigns plan to raise close to \$200 million dollars each over the next two months to support their candidates and parties. Unfortunately, sometimes the election outcomes depend on who has the loudest, most outlandish and best funded Party.

### Are You Ready to Party?

I have a number of friends that

get truly excited by the drama of the political process.

One friend laments, “This President has set us back 20 years with his economic and domestic policies.” Now it is very easy to blame someone else for our shortcomings and our lack of success. However, we have to ask ourselves where do we stand on the major Party Issues?

The Economy - Do you have an emergency fund amounting to 3-6 months of expenses, in case of serious illness, disability or job loss? Have you eliminated or significantly reduced your credit card debt? Are your investments diversified among several different asset classes?

Jobs- Are you working to improve your job skills, by taking training courses at work or at a local college? Is your resume up to date? Are you networking to learn about other job opportunities in

your field?

Education - Are you making sure that your children are doing their homework? Are you engaged with their teachers and are you supportive of the school's program? Are you saving for their college education?

Healthcare - Is your family avoiding fast food, eating a healthy diet and getting proper exercise? Does your family get regular health checks ups and avoid health risks such as smoking, alcohol and drugs?

Social Security - Are you participating in your company's pension and 401K retirement plan? Have you developed a plan for your retirement?

Energy and the Environment - Is your home properly insulated, do you monitor your thermostat for economical heating and cooling and do you simply turn off the lights when they are not needed?

Does your family recycle cans, bottles and newsprint? Are you still driving a gas guzzling SUV?

I encourage you to exercise your right and responsibility to vote and support the political candidates and party of your choice. However, Your Party and Family are critical to your success. During the next four years make sure that you are working on the issues that will make your Family a financial success regardless of which party or candidate wins this election.

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## Much Remains Undone 45 Years After 'Dream' Speech

**Charlene Muhammad**  
Special to NNPA from The Final Call

DENVER (NNPA) - A Who's Who list of spiritual leaders, politicians, activists and actors paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and commemorated the 45th Anniversary of the March on Washington with a Unity Prayer Breakfast at the Colorado Convention Center during the Democratic National Convention.

Civil rights pioneers and children of that movement marveled Aug. 28 at the rise of Sen. Barack Obama. Martin Luther King, III pointed out that the nation often forgets part of his father's "I Have a Dream Speech" that referenced a check marked insufficient funds from the federal treasury, as the senior King highlighted the need for social services, healthcare and quality education.

"I feel good, cautiously optimistic, we will elect Barack Obama as the next president of the United States. But that does not address the fact that there are over two million people in jail and almost a million of those are Black folk. We make up 13, 14, 15 percent of the population but almost 60, 70, 80, 90 percent of the jail population ... There's something wrong with that," King III said.

The president is important because he shares the people's vision and implements priorities through Congress, but citizens



Caption: Rep. John Lewis, Blair Underwood and Alfre Woodard, Rev. Joseph Lowery Credit: Kenneth Muhammad/The Final Call

have to do their part to achieve the realization of the King dream, he continued.

"When we have decent health care for all, jobs for all who want to work, decent housing, the highest caliber of education and justice for all Americans, then we will be close to the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr.," said the son of the late civil rights leader.

Actor LeVar Burton moderated the program, "A Tribute to the Movement & the Man." Among speakers were Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.); Rev. Joseph Lowery, a disciple of Dr. King and former Southern Christian Leadership Conference leader; Juanita Abernathy, wife of the late Ralph Abernathy; Bernice King, Dr. King's daughter; Martin Luther King,

III; Rev. Al Sharpton of the National Action Network; and Charles Steele of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Also present were the legendary actress Cicely Tyson, Urban League President Marc Morial, NAACP President Benjamin T. Jealous and Clayola Brown, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Rep. Lewis was called the last surviving speaker out of 10 who spoke at the March on Washington.

"If someone had told me that day, that one day 45 years later we would be here in Denver making a down payment on that dream, I would have said 'oh, no,'" Rep. Lewis said. He urged action and voter registration to fulfill the Dream by helping elect Sen.

Obama.

Rev. Joseph Lowery was unsure of whether Sen. Obama's acceptance speech on the 45th anniversary of the march was providential or coincidental.

"While it's not the fulfillment of the dream, it is a step in that direction. I thank God for it and I hope America will be energized by this new burst of spirituality and vote to extend the work of King through Barack Obama for at least another four years and we can seek peace, justice, an end to poverty and war," he said.

Sharpton noted many engaged in civil rights battles today were not at the march, but still fight for the same things. "They keep talking in the media about passing the baton. The only baton that

we will pass is from George Bush to Barack Obama on January 20, 2009. It is important that those of us engaged in civil rights this time, whether it be Jena 6, police brutality, corporate discrimination, that we remember that the weapons used 45 years ago were nonviolence, racial reconciliation and that the moral code was the weapon that no one could refute," he said.

"The threat to the dream today is not only those in power, but those of us that have surrendered, that now think it's fashionable to exploit our pain, rather than relieve it. We can't be dreamers challenging the system and walking away from the babies that we make. There's a double responsibility for society and us at the same time," Sharpton said.

The Boeing Company sponsored the breakfast, which featured a recitation of "I Have A Dream" by actress Alfre Woodard and actor Blair Underwood. Boeing also donated \$1 million to help build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

"Time for a change means to me that there's an automatic assumption of superiority on some people's parts with no foundation for it," said actor Louis Gossett, Jr. "We go around the world trying to push democracy, which is beautiful, but our backyard is dirty."

## Madam C.J. Walker Descendant Helps Sistahs Get in Touch With Hair, Soul

**Gordon Jackson**

DALLAS (NNPA) - There's much ado about a hair-do, especially when it concerns African-American woman and their self-esteem. A'Lelia Bundles has served a twofold purpose in addressing Black woman and their hair. Bundles' strong pedigree makes her more than qualified. She is a fourth generational descendant of Madam C.J. Walker, the woman who built a multi-million dollar empire and revolution-

ized the Black hair care industry.

Bundles, author of *Trip in Time*, helps Black women and girls deal positively with their hair both inside and out. Several girls and young women clustered around Bundles as she read to them at the Hampton-Illinois Library in Oak Cliff on Aug. 12. The book tells of a group of young Black girls who go back in time to meet Madam Walker. Through the reading, she starts to dissolve dangerous misperceptions about what is "good hair."

"All hair is good hair," Bundles tells the audience. "Enjoy what you have, enjoy your natural hair. It's all about how little girls feel about themselves."

Bundles explains that many Black women have been psychologically scarred about the texture of their hair, along with other features about their appearance, causing mixed signals which adversely affected their self-image. During her visit with the girls, Bundles mixes her story of the true history of Madam Walker

with practical advice about nurturing a strong parent-child relationship.

"It starts and ends with the parents," Bundles said. "What you see now is a little bit of everything. Now, you're bombarded with things. That makes it even more important for mothers and parents to help their daughters sort through when they're watching these images on TV and help them shape their values."

Bundles adds that a great mother-daughter bonding oppor-

tunity is when the mother is doing their daughter's hair - or even sometimes vice versa.

Bundles says mothers should use grooming opportunities to affirm the natural beauty of their children's hair to combat the times when someone from outside of the home tells them otherwise.

"They are getting all kinds of messages from people," Bundles continued. "That bonding has got to come when you're doing your daughter's hair. This should be a

# Fannie Mae - Freddie Mac Takeover: Non-Profits Wary of Bailout

Zenitha Price

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Even as the government takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac last week has boosted confidence on Wall Street and global markets, local housing nonprofits are wary about what the move will mean for them and the consumers they serve.

"Part of the problem is that we have not heard anything about what the plan is for Freddie and Fannie," said Joe Cox, a Maryland ACORN organizer.

Although the government-sponsored entities (GSEs) are under conservatorship with the Federal Housing Finance Agency now and their chief executives replaced with government-appointed heads, Cox said he is concerned about an eventual push for privatization.

"Privatizing will be a further step in the wrong direction in terms of making loans available to lower-income people versus putting money on Wall Street," he said. "Our low-income to moderate-income members are not as profitable as rich borrowers."

Fannie and Freddie have long undergirded the ability of low- and moderate-income consumers to purchase homes and have generally played an outsized role in the housing market. The two own or guarantee more than half of the \$12 trillion mortgage market.

As such, their failure would have a devastating impact on the

lives of most Americans, said Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr. in a statement. "Let me make clear what today's actions mean for Americans and their families: Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are so large and so interwoven in our financial system that a failure of either of them would cause great turmoil in our financial markets here at home and around the globe," he said.

"This turmoil would directly and negatively impact household wealth: from family budgets, to home values, to savings for college and retirement," he added. "A failure would affect the ability of Americans to get home loans, auto loans and other consumer credit and business finance. And a failure would be harmful to economic growth and job creation. That is why we have taken these actions."

During the foreclosure crisis in the past months, the GSEs have played an important role in injecting liquidity into the mortgage market, officials said, while juggling its mission and sound decision-making. It's an act that finally collapsed under the pressures of a foundering economy. "Given recent market conditions, the balance has been lost," said FHFA Director James Lockhart in a statement.

"Unfortunately, as house prices, earnings and capital have continued to deteriorate, their ability to fulfill their mission has deteriorated. In particular, the capacity

of their capital to absorb further losses while supporting new business activity is in doubt."

Those same market conditions are also wreaking havoc in the lives of ordinary Americans and exacerbating the foreclosure crisis. Last month, the unemployment rate rose to 6.1 percent, the highest it's been in about five years, the Labor Department said recently. Maryland's unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in July, the most recent figure, while Washington, D.C.'s rose to 6.7 percent.

As a result, mortgage delinquency has extended beyond people with "exotic" or subprime loans to those with prime loans.

"You definitely see the effect in Baltimore. The situation is people cannot sell or re-finance their loans because they don't have equity anymore or if they have equity people aren't buying so whatever situation people are in now, they're trapped," Cox said.

While the District does not have a significant foreclosure problem, Maryland has seen a relative explosion of foreclosures driven by lax credit underwriting.

That trend began around late 2006 as more people defaulted on "subprime" loans meant for people with bad credit, pushing Maryland up among the ranks of states having delinquent mortgages from 44th to 20th place.

In the second quarter of this year, 30 percent of subprime mortgages or 35,000 Maryland

homeowners, were delinquent or in the receivership process.

And, more than 36,000 prime loans — 4.3 percent of the total — were delinquent or in foreclosure in the three-month period ending in June, according to a recently released survey by the Mortgage Bankers Association. That's up from 19,000 a year earlier.

"For the last couple of years we've seen a pretty diverse group of people coming in here," Cox said. "We're used to serving low-income people but now we're seeing people from all walks of life, all backgrounds, all income levels, mortgage brokers who've been fooled by their own product...it's cutting across every line."

And unfortunately, said Ken Rosen, chairman of the Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics at UC Berkeley, the Fannie/Freddie rescue will not make money available for the everyday Joes on the brink of foreclosure, even as it promises hefty severance packages for the departing chief executives and, possibly, shareholders, from taxpayer dollars.

"It's a positive, but it's a small positive," Rosen told the San Francisco Chronicle. "It's a confidence booster in the financial market, not really directly aimed at the housing problem."

Cox said he fears that even as regulators work to tighten Freddie's and Fannie's loan standards, low- and middle-income people will be the ones to suffer.

"We know there will be a backlash but that backlash should be directed not at low-income people, who often didn't understand the terms they were getting or were just getting terrible loans," he said. "The worse thing that can happen is they learn the wrong lessons from this situation and just cut off low and middle-income people because they're easy to scapegoat."

Maudine Cooper, president/CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League, said also she hopes non-profits like hers, who get resources from the GSEs to provide homeownership and foreclosure counseling, aren't shafted. "I hope that in the quest for balancing budgets and looking at spreadsheets, non-profits aren't overlooked," she said.

Foreclosure counseling, especially, requires significant resources, given the complex nature of these loans, which are often sold from one vendor to another over the years.

"We are very conscious of the fact that this will have a serious impact on our budget next year," Cooper said. "If Fannie Mae does not fund us we'll have to cut back or look for other sources. We may have to reassign employees to a different project or hand them a pink slip. It's as fundamental as that."

*CJ Walker, continued from previous page.*

time of love, not a time of pain."

Walker, born Sarah Breedlove Walker (1867-1919), is the historic entrepreneur who amassed wealth selling hair care products for African American woman. Not only is Walker recorded as the first Black self-made female millionaire but also the first self-made female millionaire, Black or White, in American history, according to the Guinness Book of Records.

"If she were not the first, she was one of the first," said Bundles. "She was an inspiration for Black women and White men too. She's internationally known."

Walker, who had been an orphan, ascended from obscure poverty, only to become widowed at an early age. In 1906, in Denver, she took \$1.50 to buy some raw material, made her first cluster of products, and then continuously invested her profits back into her business. Within a few years she trained hundreds of woman to sell her line and Walker's company boomed. She moved to Indianapolis, where she built a high-scale manufacturing factory.

Bundles cleared up some of the myths about Walker

that had developed over the years. Walker did not invent the hot comb, or straightening comb, as had been recorded; it had been invented several years before.

"She did use the hot comb, but did not use the word 'straightener' in her ads during her lifetime," said Bundles, who also rested misconceptions that her great-great grandmother was trying to help Black women straighten their hair to make them look like Whites.

"It was not about straightening hair as it was about having hair," Bundles said, explaining that women were able to wash their hair maybe just once a month. "They were going bald and she was trying to address those issues. Hygiene was really different back then. When you don't have indoor plumbing and central heating and electricity, you just can't jump in the shower and wash your hair. Bathing didn't happen very often and people didn't wash their hair very often, as a result they had a lot of scalp diseases."

Bundles has become a success in her own right, just two years removed from a 30-year career as an award-

winning television producer. She was director of talent development from 2000 to 2006 and deputy bureau chief from 1996 to 1999 of ABC News in Washington, following 20 years as a network television producer with ABC and NBC, producing shows like ABC's World News Tonight with Peter Jennings.

Bundles also authored two books about Madame Walker, her biography, ON HER OWN GROUND: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker and Madam C.J. Walker: Entrepreneur, for young adults. She's currently working on her third book, JOY GODDESS: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance, a biography of her great-grandmother, Madam Walker's daughter.

Bundles sees Madam's Walker's story as an inspiration of all women to dare to succeed.

"We have so many advantages today," she said. "We really have no excuses."



## STROKE TARGETS BY COLOR.



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*You are the Power*

*Photographed by Sean Kennedy Santos*

Know where you stand. The odds are African Americans are twice as likely to suffer a stroke as white Americans.

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