

Lighting The Road To Freedom

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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25

Highlights on

Page 8



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39th Year

Volume 34

The Aftermath The Saga Begins

*The Soul of
New Orleans*



Page 2

NEWSMAKER

**Congresswoman
Cynthia McKinney
Leads March
Against Gretna**

Page 7



NEWS

Nagin Testifies!



Page 6

INSIDE
DATA

Contents

Cover Story
page 2

The Aftermath:
The Saga
begins

National News
page 4

Bush
Nominates
Samuel Alito
for Supreme

Court

State & Local
News
page 6

Mayor Nagin
testifies before
Congress

Newsmaker
page 7

COVER STORY

The Saga Begins:
The Aftermath

by Kandice Phillips



With the media and press coverage of the events and tragedies of Hurricane Katrina dying down, what is really next for New Orleans? As I traveled home this past weekend for the first time since the storm, my reaction was beyond tears. To see almost the entire city in ruins was a bit beyond what I expected to see. Just like the media reported everything besides the garden district, downtown, and of course the beloved French Quarters is a complete disaster. Isolated and deserted the rest of the city looks like a third world country; it's like something you would see on television.

Most people have begun to come home and salvage what remains others have just decided to start all over and not even be consumed with the time and emotional energy it would take to begin to sort through a life of things scattered through lawns streets and even roof tops. Driving through the Lakefront and Gentilly areas were just as devastating as some of the footage seen from the lower ninth ward. This contradicts the assumption that the rich were spared and the poor were the only ones victimized. To see the water line on the larger brick homes and the damage there yet comparable still seemed to be less heart wrenching as there were very few numbers on

the doors. The markings in some neighborhoods tell the true story of what really went on. As I drove through the Ponchartrain Park area and almost all of the homes had water lines above six feet I could almost visualize the waters rushing in killing everything in its path including the beautiful hundred year old oak trees. The hardest hit areas in the lower ninth ward were still being blocked by troops and inaccessible.

The devastation is unimaginable even though I could see the results. Wrath is sometimes not only apparent in energy but in this instance it was apparent in evidential manifestations. So the question is what we do now? I visited Langensteins, the little

Continued on next page.

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Mailing Address:
PO Box 51933
New Orleans, LA 70151

(504) 822-4433
Fax (504) 821-0320
datanews@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones
CEO/Publisher

Jawna Williams
Business Manager,
Advertising Director

Renetta Perry
Editor-in-Chief

Contributors
Kandice Phillips
Vincent Sylvain
NNPA News Wire
BET.com

Contributing Photographers
AP
BET.com

Cover Story Photos
Creative Commons

Production & Art Direction
Paul Mainor for MainorMedia

Editorial & Business Office
170 Northside Drive
Suite 507
Atlanta, GA 30313

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mom and pop grocery store in the garden district and even though they had signs posted that their hours would be changed it was business as usual. For their wealthy garden district patrons this was a good sign, as one lady told the check out clerk, It's just like normal, I mean with the exception of the stores being closed early. This aggravated me to no extent as I had just traveled through the city and saw otherwise. It's just like normal indeed, the rich living in their world and not even remotely effected by what's going on in the rest of the city. Their people had lost nothing. Another gentlemen eagerly greeted his companion asking the typical after Katrina questions like, "when did you get back, and how was everything?" The other gentleman replied, "Oh everything was fine in the condo with the exception of shortage in security and maintenance staff. I did have to request a new refrigerator because everything had completely rotted in the one I had but I called that in before I got home." Again, this is a prime example that we are indeed in just the beginning of the aftermath.

I kept saying out loud, "How do you rebuild an entire city?" After Hurricane Betsy rebuilding the lower ninth ward was not that difficult but how do you rebuild 80% of the city. City officials are of course tied up in meetings and seem to still be playing the blame game with one another. As election season approaches it seems that the main thing on their agenda is how to get displaced New Orleans registered voters to the polls. Yes the polls. Not to mention that there are still thousands of our neighbors who are still living in hotels and temporary housing and have no idea how they will get off on their feet, but they expect us to vote.

The situation is still pretty unbelievable in Houston. Even though the city has welcomed our residents with open arms, the Disaster Relief Center is still very crowded and to see the look on everyone's faces tells the real story. Greatful for lives the sign of a life preserver

is still far far away. Everyone seems to have a since of kindred. As I drove through the parking lot of the Houston grocery store trying to find a spot, I was comforted to see all the Louisiana license plates. It is still nice to feel like you are not alone.

On the home front the difference in disposition between homeowners and renters is the lingering question if they can even begin to rebuild. For home owners the talk of having to completely rebuild on higher slabs has everyone in a stagnant position. As I drove through my neighborhood in Little Woods there were still families that have not yet returned to even survey their damage. For many renters, it there is no home to return to. The damage is done but the repairing of the property is in the hands of their landlords who have to begin the battle with FEMA. So many homes seemed to have been burned. I asked my father as we drove through the city if he knew anything about it and he said, well you see this lighter, it automatic flood insurance." The battle between homeowners insurance companies and flood insurance companies is like World War III. No one wants to be accountable.

I say to all who I see in Houston, New Orleans and Atlanta to be strong and keep your head up. When you think about it, this is not the first time that we have been dragged from our homeland kicking and screaming, so let's not let it be the first time that our spirits are killed. As I visited one of the only churches open in New Orleans this past weekend Household of Faith, energetically Pastor Antione Barrier encouraged his mostly visiting congregation not to get stuck in what happened but to move on to what is for us. That is what will have to happen and until we begin to take the steps to rebuild on our own it is not going to just happen on its own. Back to the basics as the aftermath of Katrina is just beginning.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Judge Alito may be more Conservative than Scalia

George E. Curry
NNPA NewsWire

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Jonathan Turley, a legal scholar and law professor at George Washington University, says that President Bush's recent nominee to replace Sandra Day O'Connor may be even more conservative than Antonin Scalia, the conservative court's most conservative member.

"...There will be no one to the right of Sam Alito on this court..." Turley said Monday in an interview on The Today Show. Katie Couric followed up, "Not even Antonin Scalia?"

Turley: "They'll have to make a race for the right, but I think it'll be by a nose, if at all."

Gary Bauer, a leading conservative and former Republican candidate for president, said on CNN, "I think the president hit a grand slam home run here."

"Replacing a mainstream conservative like Justice O'Connor with a far-right activist like Samuel Alito would threaten Americans' rights and legal protections for decades," said Ralph G. Neas, president of People for the American Way. "Justice O'Connor had a pivotal role at the center of the Court, often providing a crucial vote to protect privacy, civil rights, and so much more. All that would be at risk if she were replaced with Judge Alito, who had a record of ideological activism against privacy rights, civil rights, workers' rights, and more."

A 24-page "preliminary review" of Alito's record by People for the American Way concludes: "As the following summaries of his opinions reveal, the judicial philosophy of Samuel Alito is far to the right. In fact, he has been given the nickname 'Scalito' by some who practice before him and liken him to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

"He has demonstrated hostility toward the principles undergirding a woman's constitutionally protected right to her own reproductive choices – most notably the Third Circuit's attempt to limit or overturn Roe v. Wade in the context of the Planned Parenthood v. Casey case.

"In addition, he has issued a



President Bush and Judge Alito

PHOTO: Eric Draper/White House

number of troubling opinions that seek to undermine established civil rights law, especially in the areas of gender and race, and that seek to severely limit the federal government's ability to protect its citizens. Alito claimed that the

federal government could not apply the Family and Medical Leave Act to state employees, a decision effectively reversed by the Supreme Court, and even argued that Congress could not enact a ban on the possession of machine guns. It is clear

Continued on page 13.

Not having people like this would've been an even greater disaster.



The worst of times can bring out the best in everyone. BellSouth would like to salute the numerous emergency personnel who have been working long hours in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. And we would like to recognize our own employees for their tireless efforts to restore telephone service as quickly as possible. BellSouth is proud to be a part of this community. Nature may be a powerful force, but there is no force more powerful than people. Together, we can rebuild Southeast Louisiana.

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Special Memories for a Special Person

By. Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (NNPA) – When the family members of civil rights leader Rosa Parks filed out of St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Montgomery, Ala., Adrean Eddie Floyd, 36, made a silent statement as the casket passed before him. In the church among hundreds, he solemnly raised his fist high in the sign of Black power.

In another silent, but powerful tribute, Captain Lou Freeman, the Black pilot of the Boeing 737 that transported Parks' body to memorial and funeral services between Detroit, Montgomery and Washington, D.C. circled Montgomery and tipped the left wing to say good-bye to the capitol of Alabama, symbolic of a final salutation from Parks to the city that had her arrested for standing for freedom.

Family, friends and associates aboard the plane,



Southwest Airlines Captain Lou Freeman, the first Black chief pilot in the nation, flew the plane that carried the body of Rosa Parks. NAACP President/CEO Bruce Gordon led the delegation of family and friends of Mrs. Parks.

Photo: Monica Morgan

responded with cheers and applause.

Some saluted her horse-drawn carriage, some placed their hats over their hearts, some just bowed their heads in prayer along the routes of the motorcade carrying the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement to her final rest.

Throngs passed by the casket in Montgomery and

Continued on page 13.

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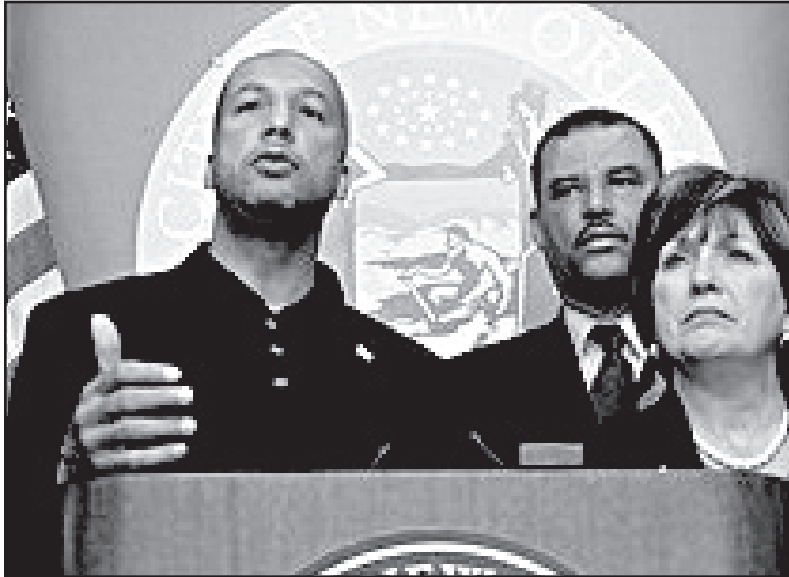
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STATE & LOCAL NEWS

Mayor Nagin Travels to Washington to Lobby Congress



New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, traveled to Washington DC last week to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works about the levees and other issues affecting the city's recovery.

Mayor C. Ray Nagin traveled to Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, November 2 to lobby Congress for New Orleans' post-Hurricane Katrina needs. Mayor Nagin testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works about levees, economic development and other issues affecting the city's recovery.

The Mayor used the opportunity to bring a personal face to the ongoing efforts in New Orleans, and to lobby the Congress for their increased commitment to bringing the

planned recovery to fruition, and to not let the needs of the citizens of New Orleans, both locally and national be overlooked.

In his testimony, Mayor Nagin highlighted the new 17-member Bring New Orleans Back Commission, he recently appointed which will draft the master plan for rebuilding the city. The representatives on the committee, are working with hundreds of committee members, residents in the city and people displaced by the storm, to draft a detailed recovery plan.

Other topics highlighted were: Building flood control measures to protect against a Category 5 hurricane; Repairing or replacing our water and sanitation system infrastructure; Rebuilding the marshlands of Southeast Louisiana; Establishing a minimum funding formula; Ensuring that local workers and businesses have an opportunity to participate in the rebuilding of New Orleans; Revitalizing the business climate with tax breaks; and Fixing the Stafford Act

Review finds design flaws in New Orleans levees

Researchers say the engineers who designed the floodwalls that collapsed during Hurricane Katrina did not fully consider the porousness of the Louisiana soil or make other calculations that would have pointed to the need for stronger levees with deeper pilings and wider bases.

Researchers say at least one key scenario was ignored in the design, the possibility that canal water might seep into the dirt on the dry side of the levees, thereby weakening the embankment holding up the floodwalls. The researchers are scheduled to report their findings at a congressional hearing tomorrow.

Robert Bea, a University of California at Berkeley civil engineering professor who took part in the study for the National Science Foundation, says the research team found other problems in the city's flood-control system, including evidence of poor maintenance and confusion over jurisdiction.

Bea also questioned the margin for error engineers used in their designs. He says the standards, which call for structures to be 30 percent stronger than the force they are meant to stop, date to the first half of the 1900s. That's when most levees were built to protect farmland, not major cities.

The UC team is one of three independent teams working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine why the barriers failed and make recommendations to repair them.



LA Governor Kathleen Blanco

Governor's Office, Old Navy partner to provide shopping spree for children

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco announced that her office and Old Navy stores in Baton Rouge will provide more than 1,500 children displaced by Hurricane Katrina with a special shopping spree where they can each pick out \$100 of free merchandise.

On Thursday, November 3, 2005, Old Navy will provide new clothes and an afternoon of entertainment to children ranging in age from infants to high school students.

Governor Blanco's staff helped identify the children who will participate in this unique event. Children from local school districts, Boys & Girls Clubs and the Baker FEMA "Renaissance Village" site have been invited to participate.

"I am very grateful for all of the support our residents have received from companies like Gap Inc." said Governor Blanco. "Not only has Gap Inc. contributed financially to relief efforts, but, with this event, they are providing a unique

experience for the young survivors of Katrina and their families. This gives many a welcome opportunity to have a good time and replace some of the clothes they lost."

These invitation-only events, entitled the Old Navy Field Trip 4 Fun, have also benefited children across the Southeast, including Jackson, Little Rock and Atlanta. Gap Inc. has contributed more than \$2 million to support recovery efforts related to Hurricane Katrina.

NEWSMAKER

Congresswoman McKinney Leads March To Gretna

Groups Denounce Actions of Gretna PD During Katrina

By Vincent Sylvain

On November 2, the day that Rosa Parks is being laid to rest, Reverend Lennox Yearwood of the Hip Hop Caucus and Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney will be carrying on her legacy of resistance to racial injustice, calling for a March to Gretna in protest of the actions of the Gretna police in the aftermath of Katrina and in support of displaced African-Americans from New Orleans, who continue to be denied access to participation and opportunity in the reconstruction process.

The March to Gretna, organized by the Hip Hop Caucus and UP (United Progressives) for Democracy, will commence with a rally at the New Orleans Convention Center. Marchers to Gretna will feature Rev. Yearwood, Kim Gandy, Rev. Lee and Ron Daniels and also include Howard Dean (Chairman, DNC) as well as a host of other human rights, civil rights and political activists, and state local and congressional representatives.

In the aftermath of Katrina, New Orleans authorities directed people to evacuate the city by crossing the Crescent City Connection Bridge which spans the Mississippi River linking New Orleans to the west bank city of Gretna. However, if you were black or in the company of blacks, you were blocked from evacuating New Orleans by armed Gretna police with guard dogs. Under orders from Gretna Police Chief Arthur S. Lawson to seal off the bridge and deny safe



The Crescent City Connection Bridge pictured above, is the location where residents of New Orleans were held off at gunpoint from crossing to safety during the flooding caused by Katrina.

passage to evacuees, Gretna police officers fired shots in the direction of the crowds and held others at gunpoint.

New Orleans Mayor Nagin has stated, that Gretna officials "will have to live" with their decision. "We allowed people

Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) will be introducing legislation calling for accountability. She states, "we are outraged by the behavior of the Gretna authorities. Our legislation will challenge their actions, deny federal funds to the Gretna police for one year

Rev. Yearwood states, "the leaders of a parish police department, a city police department, and bridge security collectively decided to block the sole escape route from Hell. One recommended by both the New Orleans Mayor and the New Orleans Police.

Instead of meeting people who are sworn to protect and serve us, these citizens met armed vigilantes in one of the most racist encounters ever documented in America.

Can you imagine during 9/11, the thousands who fled on foot to the Brooklyn Bridge, not because they wanted to go to Brooklyn, but because it was their only option? What if they had been met by six or eight police cars blocking the bridge, and cops fired warning shots to turn them back? Has Dr. King's Dream really become a Nightmare? It is time for America to stand up and hold the City of Gretna, and the police department accountable for their actions during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina."



Gretna Police Department Chief Arthur Lawson stands at the center of the controversy for ordering his department to seal off the bridge and deny safe passage to evacuees.

to cross ... because they were dying in the Convention Center," Nagin said. "We made a decision to protect people... They made a decision to protect property."

and seek justice for affected citizens of Louisiana. The Hip Hop Caucus is also calling for a federal investigation of the events by the Justice Department.

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DATA ZONE Entertainment

BET turns 25

Stars show up to celebrate silver milestone

By P. Frank Williams for BET.com



Whitney makes long awaited appearance at the celebration.



MC Hammer proves he hasn't lost a step in his performance

Debra Lee the new CEO at BET shares a moment with founder and Chairman Bob Johnson.



Bobby Brown belts out "It's My Prerogative" to a cheering crowd.

Cramping a quarter of a century of trailblazing programming and entertainment into one night is no easy feat, but an A-list roster of entertainers helped Black Entertainment Television do just that during the historic broadcast of "BET 25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special", on November 1st.

It was nothing but a party inside Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium as a who's who of celebrities from music, TV, film and sports joined BET personalities old and new to reminisce on all the magical moments since the network was founded in 1980.

Former Video Soul host Donnie Simpson, Diddy, Usher, Queen Latifah, Steve Harvey and Serena Williams were just a few of the show's segment hosts. Each represented five-year chunks of BET history from 1980 until 2005. Showcasing the network's tremendous scope of programming, viewers got a taste of hip hop, R&B, pop, gospel and dance music at its finest.

Simpson, "Ol Green Eyes" took the crowd back to the Video Soul days when he hosted the show's opening. Taking it back to the old school, Earth, Wind & Fire was the first group to hit the stage at the event with their song "Let's Groove," which was fitting since the song was also the first video ever played on BET.

Celebrating the late 1980's, Aresnio, Hammer and Howard Hewett teamed up. After Hewett sang a sweet snippet of his ballad, "For the Lover in You" they introduced Boston bad boys New Edition.

Wearing shiny black dinner jackets with bright color ties, Ronnie, Ricky, Mike, Ralph, and Johnny ran through their rolodex of hits from "Candy girl" and "If It Isn't Love" to the late night classic, "Can You Stand the Rain" While the crowd sang along. However, when surprise guest Bobby Brown rushed the stage for "Mr. Telephone Man," the crowd went bananas. Brown later gave a high-spirited performance of "My Prerogative" that even had the ushers dancing and the Shrine floor literally shaking.

Continued on page 11.

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New Orleans
DATA
News Weekly

The People's Paper

Rebuilding A Greater New Orleans

After 25 years of serving New Orleans, Cox Communications is committed to rebuilding the Greater New Orleans area better than ever.

Cox has already given a \$10 million gift to help our citizens recover from this tragedy. The American Red Cross, United Way, Habitat For Humanity and Boys & Girls Clubs have received these donations to help begin to rebuild our community.

This city is our home too and we are looking forward to the next twenty five years... and beyond.



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DATA ZONE

BET, Continued from page 8.

Hip-Hop also got mad love. Amid explosions, breakdancers and screaming fans, LL Cool J licked his lips and kicked his famous mic stand as he killed his classics "Rock the Bells" and "Headsprung." Nelly followed the LL blueprint and had the ladies getting

helping young comedians on that show. "Comic View has been on for 14 years. Since Def Jam shut down, it was the place. And for people who can't get on Comedy Central, thank God for Comic View."

Throughout the night and



Ed Gordon, longtime anchor and correspondent at BET with date



Honors were given to Donnie Simpson, original VJ of Video Soul

"Hot in Here." Big Gip, Paul Wall and Jermaine Dupri and Ali from the St. Lunatics joined him to perform his latest single "Grillz."

And though the power of music was a big theme, BET's undying focus on news programming was also remembered. A spotlight was given to "Teen Summit," Ed Gordon's groundbreaking interviews with O.J. Simpson and Pres. George Bush and other great coverage of the Rodney King beating and the arrest of Former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry.

Shows like Comic View were also remembered. Comedian G-Thang said he was most proud of BET's dedication to

in a special segment, BET founder and Chairman Bob Johnson was honored for his vision and innovative business savvy. Johnson, who is also the owner of the Charlotte Bobcats, said his time at BET was the most rewarding journey he had ever been on. BET CEO Debra Lee handed Johnson an award for his service and dedication over the years after paying tribute to his groundbreaking achievements. Lee will take over the helm completely in January 2006. In an electric moment that helped close out the evening, Johnson surrounded himself with many of the VJ's who've appeared on the network over the years.



LL Cool J wows the crowd at the BET Anniversary



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Love Lost (for my city)

I'm falling out of love with New Orleans.



The Love Dr.
Data Columnist

We just don't get it! We New Orleanians are so blinded by our immersion in ourselves that we cannot see that we are the problems which have plagued New Orleans and will continue to plague New Orleans unless we are prepared to desert and condemn the social/business practices (read "way of life") which causes this place to stagnate on purpose. For stagnation in New Orleans wasn't a natural disaster but a natural result of preservation gone mad and business based on social affiliation rather than competition or merit.

I'm sick and tired of hearing the media voices on "united radio" blame the U.S. Congress for having second thoughts about putting taxpayer funds into the hands of the ruling classes of New Orleans and Louisiana. Hell I don't blame them. They know as well as I that we haven't fixed anything in New Orleans Louisiana. There's been no declaration by Rex, Comus or the Boston Club that membership will be open and based on objective criteria. After all those are the places where the money is divided up, and the birthplace of plots to keep competing banks and other businesses out of New Orleans. The black community does the same but generally in education and government circles with a lot less real money involved.

As long as this is a place where people get the best jobs before they fill out an application and government RFPs (request for proposals) look just like one particular company's vitae then we really can't be trusted to do the right thing with taxpayer's dollars. I'll bet real money that when the

dust settles (if an investigation is actually pursued) that it was someone who "belonged" to the inner circles who built the substandard parts of the levees which failed and put us in this predicament. Hell, when that story hits the press, those who are stuck here will find a national mood that says "those backward good-timing fools did this to themselves with the last federal taxpayer funded repair of their levees."

I actually had a moment when I believed that New Orleans power brokers would understand the need to restructure themselves to attract back people who had tasted honey, but all I hear are the desperate rumblings of a bad but stubborn child. I understand twelve step programs enough to know that there is no hope of recovery when a person doesn't acknowledge the problem. Until I hear someone say that we have to rethink all this secret and exclusive society stuff to create a city that attracts and empowers the brightest and best, I'll continue to liquidate all my assets (Thank God for the wisdom to have flood insurance even on our paid out properties) and keep my location options open.

I was in Milwaukee for one month and had a radio presence daily and sold more books in a week than in two years in New Orleans, so I realized that I am a very rare and brilliant voice on media and that my book really does go to the heart of better living based on love. There may be a show in the near future for me here (if you shout loud enough) and I hope it happens, but that really doesn't matter, because I am good enough to make it happen elsewhere where new and improved is not considered a threat.

Ultimately that attitude is now the attitude of thousands who, having tried themselves in bigger and better places, now have a better grasp and appreciation for their own worth and who understand that we can cook red beans and rice or gumbo anyplace we go, and that just doing so makes more friends and allies than we ever imagined.

I do miss Sweet Lorraine's and if it doesn't reopen that would be one less major reason to stay in a city that forgot to care about me and my people.

So instead of throw me something mister, now it's "show me something mister", money and open opportunity, cause I just don't care anymore about jumping for trinkets when there's real money to be made away from the parades. The one thing Katrina proved is that the "City that care forgot" forgot to care about anyone except insiders, and poor folk have to fend for themselves.

One of my most loyal fans called me from Baton Rouge to tell me she might be coming back to New Orleans, so I asked "Why, weren't you treated better in El Paso?" She said "Yes". "I asked weren't the schools and housing better?" She said "Yes". I asked "Didn't you and your kids have better job opportunities?" She said "Yes". So I asked "Are you in your right mind?" and she said "I guess so since I just changed it!" So now if I want to see that particular piece of New Orleans, I have to tour Texas, which ain't a bad idea. Me and Boo and a van full of books, visiting all the folk who can now afford to buy a copy.

Go To LOVELOGISTICS.COM for more information. Lloyd Dennis is also available as a speaker; email him at LD@LLOYDDENNIS.COM, fax 504-368-1225

Alito, continued from page 4.

that Alito's confirmation would seriously jeopardize Americans' rights."

In a statement announcing PFAW's opposition to the Alito nomination, the organization cited an example of what it believes is Alito's racial insensitivity.

"In one case that came before Alito, an African American had been convicted of felony murder and sentenced to death by an all-white jury from which black jurors had been impermissibly struck," it noted. "Alito cast the deciding vote and wrote the majority opinion in a 2-1 ruling rejecting the defendant's claims. The full Third Circuit reversed Alito's ruling."

Alito's decisions appear to be especially harsh in the areas of gender and race discrimination, where he has dissented from Third Circuit decisions and sought to make it much harder for victims of race and sex discrimination to prove discrimination."

Alito's dissent in these case provides a revealing peek into how he views some anti-discrimination laws. "I have no doubt that in the future we are going to get more cases where an employers is choosing between competing candidates of roughly equal qualifications and the candidate who is not hired or promoted claims discrimination," Alito wrote. "I also have little doubt that most plaintiffs will be able to use the discovery process to find minor inconsistencies in terms of the employer's having failed to follow its internal procedures to the letter. What we end up doing then is converting anti-discrimination law into a 'conditions of employment' law, because we are allowing disgruntled employees to impose the costs of trial on employers who, although they have not acted with the intent to discriminate, may have treated their employees unfairly. This represents an unwarranted extension of the anti-discrimination laws."

Rosa Parks, continued from page 4.

in Washington D. C. to see her dressed in her beloved White deaconess uniform of St. Paul's. The black and white bonnet was tied in a fluffy bow at the side of her neck. Her braided hair covered her ears. Her hands were covered with White lace, decorated with tiny pearls and diamonds.

Many were struck by her radiance and strength. "I gasped," says actress Cicely Tyson in an interview with the NNPA News Service. "I gasped because what I saw buried in her face was the same thing that made me realize, 'This is what that woman had that allowed her to sit in that seat and not move. Even in death, she had it. I tell you, it was so startling to me, I will never ever get over that first moment.'"

Civil rights icon Joseph Lowery agreed, "Only God could take a whisper of such a gentle woman and turn it into a global revolution."

Those who knew her and those who didn't expressed similar sentiments. "This is a moment, I think, for all of us who knew Rosa Parks and loved her, for all of her friends and her family," says U. S. Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.). "But it's also an enormously important moment for the whole movement that has struggled to knock down the walls of bigotry and hatred in our society."

Many have credited Parks' stance for justice as being the reverberating factor that not only won Black Americans the right to vote, but eventually led to the end of apartheid and the building of democracy in South Africa.

Melanie Campbell, executive director and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, says Parks inspired her.

"It just gave me the strength to know that I can't be tired," Campbell says. "I feel honored and I feel blessed to have been in this moment. And it just gave me the energy to do what little I try to do with my life."



To Our Readers:

It is extremely important during these unprecedented times for New Orleanians, for you to receive information that is pertinent to the growth and reconstruction of our city. The Data News Weekly has taken on the charge to reach out to our readership which is now dispersed throughout the country. It is the responsibility of the Black Press, as historically, it has been the Black Press which has been the trusted source of information for our people, dating back over 60 years. The Black Press was credited with being the number one source of information during The Great Migration, when thousands of Blacks were leaving the South for work opportunities in the North. The Black Press kept them connected, and in its own way, helped in changing the face of America.

Continuing in this great tradition, The Data News Weekly in its 39th year of publishing, understands that another “great migration” has occurred, and though the circumstances for our moving are different, the result is the same. We still have a need to be connected, but the large majority of our readership is not currently connected to the internet, and so we have redistributed our newspaper throughout Baton Rouge, Houston, TX and Jackson, MS, in addition to New Orleans, to be a better communication source for our displaced readers.

Understanding our responsibility, we also realize that we could not undertake this tremendous effort without the support of the corporate community. Moët Hennesy USA has, prior to this disaster, been a major supporter of the Black Press of America and of the Data News Weekly, and now, as we go through these trying times, we sincerely appreciate their continuing support of our overall responsibility to the New Orleanian African American community.

The Data News Weekly, will continue to bring you the news from home, keeping you informed, wherever you may be, and helping you to find your way home. Once again, The Data News Weekly wishes to express it's gratitude to Moët Hennesy USA, for its ongoing support of our publication and our mission.

Thank You Moët Hennesy USA

SPECIAL REPORT

Situation Report for New Orleans

(New Orleans, LA) The City of New Orleans will release regular updates, or Situation Reports, detailing the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the city and the progress of rebuilding efforts. Reports will be posted on the City's website, www.cityofno.com. A toll free information hotline had been set up for citizens offering a message with important information- 877-286-6431
As of Monday, October 31, 2005:
Re-entry
Railroad crossing signals may not be functioning. Everyone should exercise caution when driving and crossing railroad tracks.

- In the targeted zip codes of 70112, 70113, 70114, 70115, 70116, 70118, 70130 and 70131, a 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. curfew is in effect. No one may be outside on foot or in a vehicle at these times. Those areas include Algiers, the Central Business District, the French Quarter and Uptown. In all other areas, the curfew is 8 p.m. - 6 a.m.

9th Ward Re-Entry

All streets on the north and south side of North Claiborne Avenue are open for "Look and Leave" visitation. Residents may return to see the extent of damage to their property and to gather personal valuables.
A command center will be located at North Claiborne and Caffin Avenues, and New Orleans Police Department and National Guard vehicles will be patrolling the streets if residents need assistance.
The area will be open for visitation from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No one will be permitted to remain after dark; all city curfews are in effect. Residents will enter and exit the Lower 9th Ward via the St. Claude Avenue Bridge.

Important information includes the following tips:

Use gloves, boots and coveralls. Wash all soiled clothing and equipment.
Do not enter heavily damaged structures.

- Drink bottled water throughout the day to prevent heat exhaustion and dehydration.
- Protect yourself from mold and bacteria. Wear particulate masks. Extreme areas require the use of respirators. If an area is extremely moldy, stay away. State agencies caution that mold is unhealthy for children and the elderly. Do not expose children or elderly residents to moldy buildings.
- Use insect repellent to prevent mosquito bites, as there may be more mosquitoes than normal.
- Watch for wild and domestic animals. Some of them are more aggressive than normal because of the stresses they have undergone. Disinfect any wounds and bites immediately and seek medical care as soon as possible.
- You should have a recent tetanus shot. Tetanus shots are good for 10 years. Booster shots are available at all open health clinics:
- Touro, Ochsner, West Jefferson, East Jefferson, and Children's Hospital and a support hospital at the Convention Center.
- Algiers Community Health Clinic (Fishers) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 4422 General Meyer, Algiers
- Covenant House (Downtown) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 611 North Rampart St.
- Ida Hymel Health Clinic 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 1111 Newton St., Algiers
- Tulane CBD Practice Plan Clinic - at Harrah's (mobile unit) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 512 S. Peter St.
- Uptown Square Clinic (mobile unit) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 200 Broadway Ave., Suite 230
- The Salvation Army will have two mobile units and 12 counselors on duty.
- Clean-up kits, food, water and ice and portable restrooms will be available at the command center.

Red Cross

- The Red Cross distribution sites are listed below:
- 70112 Municipal Auditorium parking lot
- 70113 A.L. Davis Park, Washington at Simon Bolivar
- 70115 Freret Street Parking Lot, Jena at Freret
- 70116 Esplanade at St. Claude/N.Rampart
- 70118 Lafayette School, 2727 S. Carrollton Ave.
- 70130 Laurel Elementary School, 820 Jackson Ave.
- 70114 Fox Playground, Landry High School, Algiers
- Red Cross has set up a new financial site at 1426 Napoleon Avenue.
- Two new financial sites have been set up at:
- Gentilly Woods Mall
- Oak Park Shopping Center
- Cut Off Playground at General Meyer and Belgrade, is no longer a bulk distribution site, and has been converted into to Red Cross staff shelter.
- Red Cross is also offering blue tarp for citizens' homes if they do not qualify under the Blue Roof Program.

For more information on temporary roofing, log onto www.cityofno.com.

Schools

- New Orleans Public Schools announced that eight schools will re-open in Mid-November.
- | School Name | Address |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Behrman Elementary | 715 Opelousas |
| Eisenhower Elementary | 3700 Tall Pines Drive |
| Fischer Elementary | 1801 L.B. Landry Avenue |
| Harte Elementary | 5300 Berkley Drive |
| Henderson Elementary | 1912 L.B. Landry Avenue |
| Edna Karr Sr. High School | 3332 Huntlee Drive |
| Rosenwald Elementary | 6501 Berkley Drive |
| O.P. Walker Sr. High School | 2832 General Meyer Avenue |
- Lusher and Lusher Extension as an agreement with Tulane will reopen in January.
 - Re-hiring will begin on November 1, 2005 for Orleans Parish Schools. Eight Schools will be open by November 17, 2005.
 - Archdiocese of New Orleans currently has two schools open in Algiers. On October 17, 2005, St. Francis Cabrini will open in New Orleans. Seven parochial schools have the goal of opening in January 2006.
 - Cathedral Academy, a Catholic Elementary School located in the French Quarter, re-opened its doors to students on Monday, October 17, 2005.

Housing

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as part of their FEMA-assigned mission of providing temporary repairs to roofs damaged by Hurricane Katrina, has a toll-free number for affected victims to call for information - 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258). If a home does not qualify under the Blue Roof Program, citizens may go to the local disaster relief centers to receive blue tarps for their homes.

The current Disaster Relief Centers are:

- Landry High School, 1200 Whitney Ave. Algiers; opened from 9a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Jewish Community Center, 5343 St. Charles Ave.; opened from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
- Laurel Elementary, 820 Jackson Ave., opened from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Overview by zip code

70114

- Expanded RTA bus routes.
- Sewer system is operational.
- Water service was never interrupted.
- Electric: Service available to 94% of customers
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 88%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; RTA providing limited bus service, and limited gas stations open. RTS fare free for six months, and all bus services in circulations have handicapped accessibility. Airport is operational.
- Restoration of electric, gas, and telephone service
- Plan for and provide appropriate Health and Human Services
- Fire coverage operational

70131

- Sewer is operational.
- Water: Service never interrupted.
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 88%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; Limited bus service; Some gas stations open; storm drains: 75%; cars towed: 0%; Gen. de Gaulle buses running between Algiers and CBD, Algiers local to provide inner Algiers service RTA fare free for six months. All buses in circulation have handicapped accessibility. Airport is operational.

70115

- Sewer: System is not anticipated to overwhelm pump A.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Power available to 100% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 39%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open; Catch Basin cleaning (10%); storm drains: 75%; cars towed: 0% TBD; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.

70118

- Sewer: System is not anticipated to overwhelm pump A.
- Water: Water is potable.
- Elect: Power available to over 97% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 62% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 39%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open. Catch Basin cleaning (0%); storm drains: 100%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure. Expect to be self-sufficient by 12 Oct 2005.

70116

- Sewer: System is not anticipated to overwhelm pump A.
- Water: Water is potable.
- Elect: Power available to > 75% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 40%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%. No bus service; No gas stations open; Catch Basin cleaning (0%); storm drains: 10%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term

- state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.

70112

- Sewer: System is not anticipated to overwhelm pump A.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Power available to over 94% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 99% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 65%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%. No bus service; No gas stations open; Catch Basin cleaning (10%); storm drains: 10%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.
- 911: New system fully operational

70113

- Sewer: System is not anticipated to overwhelm pump A.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 85% of customers.
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 65%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open; catch basin cleaning 10%; storm drains: 75%; PFO will provide bus transport, from convention center to short term state sponsored shelters.
- Fire: Low water pressure.
- 911: New system operational

70130

- Sewer: System is not anticipated to overwhelm pump A.
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 100% of customers.
- Gas: 93% service available.
- Trash/debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 100%; Signals Operational 93%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; No gas stations open; catch basin cleaning 0%; storm drains: 100%; storm sewer operations.
- Fire: Low water pressure.
- 911: New system operational

70124

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 25% of customers.
- Gas: Service available to 25% of customers.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 85%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%;. No bus service; no gas stations open.
- Fire: operational
- 911: New system operational

70125

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 99% of customers.
- Gas: 12% service available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 95%; No bus service; no gas stations open; storm drains: 100%.
- Fire: Low water pressure; delayed response
- 911: Operational

SPECIAL REPORT

70119

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 80% of customers.
- Gas: 8% service available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%; No bus service; no gas stations open; storm drains: 100%.
- Fire: No water pressure
- 911: Operational

70122

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: potable.
- Elect: Service available to 75% of customers.
- Gas: 45% service available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 95%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 95%; No bus service; no gas stations open.
- Fire: Low water pressure; delayed response
- 911: Operational

70126

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Downman/Lower-0% of power available/Upper-31%.
- Gas: Downman/Lower- 12% service available/Upper-9% available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 90%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70127

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Service available to 0% of customers.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 90%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70128

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Service available to 0% of customers.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 85%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70129

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Service available to less than 25% of customers.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected 85%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs 100%.
- 911: Operational

70117

- Sewer: East Bank sewer system is inoperative
- Water: Water for fire protection only - not potable.
- Elect: Upper 9th Ward- service available to 29% of customers; lower 9th-service available less than 25%.
- Gas: 0% service available.
- Debris: 1.9 M cubic yards collected to date.
- Transportation: Roads Inspected Upper-95%, Lower 35%; Signals Operational 0%; Temporary Stop Signs Upper-100%, Lower 90%.
- 911: Operational

70148

- UNO Lake Front Arena status same as Zip Code 70122

Postal Services

- There are several Post Offices with regular retail services open in the area:
- 1) Elmwood Postal Station, 5720 Citrus Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70123
 - 2) Metairie Main P.O., 3301 17th St., Metairie, LA 70002
 - 3) Johnson Street Station, 3517 Johnson St., Metairie, LA 70001
 - 4) Park Manor Finance, 7044 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Metairie, LA 70003

Mass care/housing/human services

- The 14th Combat Support Hospital relocated to the New Orleans convention center and is operational.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

- I-10 Slidell Twin Span Bridge: one lane open to two-way traffic
- US-11 Bridge & Pontchartrain Causeway: closed with limited access to emergency relief vehicles only
- LA-23 Remains flooded and blocked from Katrina
- I-10 at Lake Charles is now open.

AIR

- The following airports are open and operational for commercial, civil and military flights:
- Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, LA (BTR)
 - Lafayette Regional Airport, LA (LFT)
 - Lake Charles Regional Airport (LCH)
 - Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport, Patterson, LA (PTN)
 - Alexandria International Airport, LA (AEX)
 - Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport (GPT) (MSY) Mississippi
 - Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport operating at 15% pre-Katrina
 - 24-25 passenger flights per day
 - 3-4 concourses open
 - Concessions beginning to open

- The following airports are open, but may be limited to visual and/or daytime operations:
- Houma Terrebonne Airport (HUM)
 - Naval Air Station Alvin Callendar (NBG)
 - Chennault International, Lake Charles(CWF)
 - Northshore Regional, Hammond (HDC)
 - Thibodaux Municipal Airport (L83)
 - Slidell Airport (ASD)

TRAIN STATION

Currently Amtrak has two trains leaving and arriving in New Orleans daily.

- Departures:
- 7:20 a.m. Atlanta/New York
- 1:45 p.m. Memphis/Carbondale/Chicago
- Arrivals:
- 3:32 p.m. Chicago/Carbondale/Chicago
- 7:20 p.m. New York/Atlanta

Due to damage to the rail tracks, no east/west trains are scheduled to run until early January.

RTA

- RTA began limited transit service on Sunday, October 2. To get bus route schedules go to www.norta.com.
- GREYHOUND STATION
- Daily bus service to and from New Orleans began on October 31, 2005. Two busses are schedule to arrive and depart daily from the city.
- One bus is scheduled to leave Baton Rouge at 10:15 a.m., arriving in New Orleans at 12:15 p.m.
 - A second bus is scheduled to depart Houston, TX for New Orleans with stops in Baytown, Beaumont, Port Arthur, TX, Lake Charles, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge.
 - Passengers departing New Orleans can board at the Loyola Avenue station for departures to Baton Rouge at 12:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

PARKING:

- Towing will be discontinued daily at 7:00 p.m. until further notice. If your vehicle is missing after 7 pm, you should report it stolen to the New Orleans Police Department
- Please adhere to the parking laws in the City of New Orleans. There is no parking in restricted or passenger zones, and vehicles may not block intersections.
- Six tow trucks and three flatbeds (provided by Car Crushers) removing vehicles from routes in zip code areas to be repopulated.
 - 812 Cars towed by Car Crushers
 - 2,991 Cars towed by City tow truck drivers

Debris Management

- The estimated quantity of debris in the New Orleans area is 50 million cubic yards. The City Debris Management team is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to remove debris and refuse from businesses and residences in the N.O. area. Thus far, a total of over 1.9 M cubic yards of debris and refuse has been removed.
- There are numerous waste streams. 1) Green (trees and other vegetative debris), 2) construction and demolition debris (mostly from demolished buildings - which includes wood, furniture, rugs, sheet rock, roofing materials, electrical and plumbing materials among others), 3) White goods (including appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners), 4) Household hazardous materials.
- To assist in the collection of trash and debris, residents must separate debris into different piles curbside for separate collections. This will speed the removal of trash and debris. Items should be separated into the following categories:
 - Household garbage (dispose as usual) except spoiled food MUST be bagged in black plastic trash bags.
 - Tree debris and clean wood
 - Carpet, sheetrock, insulation, flooring and furniture, etc.
 - Roofing materials
 - Appliances such as refrigerators (emptied of contents), stoves, and air conditioners.
 - Household hazardous wastes such as pesticides, paints, solvents, automotive fluids and cleaning products. We are working on developing a program to handle these items, which will be announced at a later date. In the meantime, please store them in a safe place.

- It is against the law in Orleans Parish to have any open fire without a permit. Residents should not burn any storm debris because of potentially toxic fumes. Smoke from fires can also impede visibility for aircraft in the area. Open-flame cooking is also prohibited in multi-family dwellings or dwellings with two or more stories, or within 10 feet of a building.
- In Algiers, regular once a week household garbage collection will begin the week of October 24, 2005.
- OMNI is hauling debris from the West Bank to a disposal site
- Debris has been pushed to the side on all West Bank Streets. Streets are passable.

Emergency Management

- Command staff developed a contingency plan in case significant rainfall causes a levee breach.
- The Emergency Operations Center is fully activated and operational under the Incident Command System.
- The EOC is working under written Incident Action Plans to coordinate tactical operations in the field.

Logistics

- The Seventh Street Warehouse is now available to receive and distribute supplies to the city.

Infrastructure

Electric

64 percent of customers in Orleans Parish have service.

Gas

- Total Entergy Gas Customers 144,963
- Total Gas Customers Assessed 123,989 (86 percent)
- Total Gas Customers Secured 142,984 (99 percent)
- Total Gas Customers Restored 56,810 (50 percent)
- Total Meters Shut and Locked to Date 69,933 (48%)

Hurricane Katrina Gas Assessment & Restoration Report

Zip Code	Area	Comments
70112	CBD	100% FULLY RESTORED
70113	Central City	100% Partially Restored; Many Meter Valves OFF
70114	Algiers	100% FULLY RESTORED
70115	Garden District	95% Partially RESTORED; HP is OK - Water in UP
70116	French Quarter	100% Water in UP system
70117	9th Ward-Upper	9% Water in UP system
70117	9th Ward-Lower	0% Heavy wind & flood damage. Debris hazard
70118	Audubon	70% Partially RESTORED; Water in UP system
70119	City Park	8% Water in UP system
70122	Gentilly	50% Water in UP system
70124	LakeView	35% Water in UP system
70125	Mid City	12% Water in UP system
70126	Downman	12% Heavy wind & flood damage
70127	NO East	0% Heavy wind & flood damage.
70128	NO East	0% Heavy wind & flood damage.
70129	NO East	0% Heavy wind & flood damage.
70130	Warehouse Dist	100% Mostly RESTORED
70131		100% FULLY RESTORED
TOTAL CUSTOMERS		144,963 46%

Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Services

- Orleans EMS is currently running 24 hours operations with 33 units per day
- There are 20 units currently assigned to day time operations.
- There are 7 units currently assigned to night operations.
- There were 36 emergency calls within the past 24 hour period.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

- Crisis Intervention Unit working from 10 am to 6 pm
- NOPD will begin handling traffic accidents and enforce traffic laws in the Central Business District.

Fire Department

- All stations are staffed in Algiers.
- Fire fighters continue checking hydrants and conducting building inspections.
- Fire department infrastructure: four stations are fully operational, with others at various stages of operability.

RENEW ORLEANS

GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES

Renewing a community is challenging. But, with perseverance, patience and persistence, those challenges can be met by bringing people together to rebuild homes, restore buildings, reopen businesses and make transportation available and accessible to everyone. As you look toward recovery, know that you are in the thoughts of all of us here at GMAC, the financial services people of General Motors.

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