

Budget details to be released this week

Obama speech aimed to lift America's hope

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — In his first speech before Congress, filled with the soaring inspiration reminiscent of his campaign, President Barack Obama on Tuesday night promised the nation, "We will rebuild, we will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before."

Surrounded by cheering and applauding Democrats and less optimistic Republicans, he said, "The weight of this crisis will not determine the destiny of this nation. The answers to our problems don't lie beyond our reach. They exist in our laboratories and our universities; in our fields and our factories; in the imaginations of our entrepreneurs and the pride of the hardest-working people on Earth. Those qualities that have made America the greatest force of progress and prosperity in human history we still possess in ample measure."

America has been devastated by the economic crisis

with millions now unemployed and Black unemployment nearing 13 percent. Millions were glued to their television sets, looking for a word of hope as Obama prepares to unveil his first budget later this week.

The President was realistic:

"You don't need to hear another list of statistics to know that our economy is in crisis, because you live it every day. It's the worry you wake up with and the source of sleepless nights. It's the job you thought you'd retire from but now have lost; the business you built your dreams upon that's now hanging by a thread; the college acceptance letter your child had to put back in the envelope. The impact of this recession is real, and it is everywhere," he said. "What is required now is for this country to pull together, confront boldly the challenges we face, and take responsibility for our future once more."

Part of the exuberance among Democratic members of the House and Senate was no doubt their recollection



President Barack Obama leaves after his address to a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber of the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday. The speech lasted 60 minutes.

that it was the eight-year Republican administration of President George Bush that has led to the crisis.

"The Bush administration left our nation in fiscal shambles. The problems our country faces are significant and it will require a lot of hard work to put America back on the road toward economic recovery," said Congressional Black Caucus

Chair Barbara Lee, D-Calif., in a statement. "President Obama laid out a plan to re-

build our fragile economy so that we can emerge stronger than before through job retention and creation, investment in our infrastructure and greater accountability and oversight of our financial institutions. Additionally, he understands that we must resist the temptation to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable Americans doing so would be particularly cruel in today's economic climate."

Among the specifics that Obama said would be reflected in his budget:

—Tax cuts for 95 percent of working families, beginning April 1.

—Comprehensive health-care reform.

—Ending tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas.

He also promised to eliminate wasted money through:

—Reforms in the defense budget that would stop payments for "Cold War-era weapons systems we don't use."

—Eliminating the "no-bid contracts that have wasted billions of dollars in Iraq."

He also reiterated some of the hallmarks of his economic stimulus plan, including unemployment benefits, continued healthcare coverage to help the unemployed and job retention and creation.

"Over the next two years, this plan will save or create 3.5 million jobs," he said.

"More than 90 percent of these jobs will be in the private sector — jobs rebuilding our roads and bridges;

(See Speech, Page 4)

State of the Black Union eyes dialogue on issues

By Olu Alemoru
Special to Sentinel-Voice
LOS ANGELES (NNPA)

— In the wake of the eupho-

ria over the historic election of President Barack Obama, the founder of the influential State of the Black Union forum insists that real change remains an idea whose time has yet to truly arrive.

Fittingly, the 10th annual edition of the forum, presented each February by television personality Tavis Smiley, returns this week to Los Angeles — the city of its origins. Entitled "Making America as Good as Its Promise," the 2009 symposium will take place on Feb. 28 at the L.A. Convention Center, and includes many of its original panelists, including intellectual Cornel West, actor/activist Danny Glover, business titan Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson.

"We're delighted to be

back home for the 10th anniversary," Smiley said in an interview last week. "I think these addresses have accomplished two major goals over the years. Firstly, empowerment. We use it as a day to ask Black America how they feel about issues that effect them. Secondly, knowledge is power. We expand our inventory of ideas and encourage everyday people to be the leaders of their destiny."

The sponsored event is free to the public, but attendees have to book in advance. It will be broadcast live on C-SPAN and later aired on the Black-owned cable network TV One.

Launched in 2000 with "Advocacy in the Next Millennium," the gathering brings together some of America's most influential

(See Union, Page 3)

Court

(Continued from Page 1)

"I've admired the legal system for many years, and this school has helped mold me for the opportunity to pursue a career in law," said Melyssa Salazar, who dreams of being a lawyer. "It is important to me to be an advocate for change because there are a lot of things wrong in this world, and the legal system allows us an opportunity to seek other areas to resolve our differences instead of using violence."

The lawyers who presided in the most spoke about the case being presented at the school.

Janelle LaVigne, attorney for the plaintiff, was impressed with the courtroom. "You know, I was surprised by the state of the are facility here at the school, and I believe when young people are deciding on what careers they plan to pursue in the future that they want to go in to, a program of this magnitude is invaluable to them to see how the legal system actually works as opposed to a glorified rendition on television."

George Ranalli, attorney for the defendant, added: "I think that it's a great experience being here. We have a



Judge Tim Williams talks with students who are a part of Canyon Springs' law academy.

short trial case going on here that saves on cost and attorneys fees for both the plaintiff and the defendant. You get the same results here that you would receive in a four to six day trial and the benefits are that you save money and the verdict is much quicker."

The trial involved a car accident between Octavio Sanchez, who claims he was injured when Sanja Primer struck his car from behind. Both sides presented their cases and jury absolved

Primer. More than 50 students witnessed the proceedings.

Laura Brown, a senior, said the program provides real-world preparation for students interested in legal careers. Derrick Oea got to apply what he learned in the academy during an internship with the Clark County District Attorney's Office. "I learned how to preserve our constitutional principles of justice, liberty, and equality."

Canyon Springs principal Milana Winter appreciates

how authentic the program is, while Zaid Haddad, law academy's coordinator, relishes the success it's had in such a short time. "All of our students who have graduated over the past two years are now in some phase of a four year education and post secondary work," Haddad said.

"We have students enrolled in colleges such as Georgetown and the American University, where they continue to build on the foundation that they established here at Canyon Springs."

Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierre Streater

Gethsemane Baptist Church

is pleased to announce the addition of a 11 a.m.

Worship Celebration

beginning Sunday March 1st

Rev. Dr. Charles Hemphill Jr., Senior Pastor and the members of Gethsemane Baptist Church, extend to you a **Personal Invitation** to "Come Grow With Us!" as we celebrate another blessing from God.

2525 N. Decatur, Suite #8
Las Vegas, Nevada
(702) 435-4422

