

Sacramento Bee

### **42,000 of California's jobless will get help with mortgages**

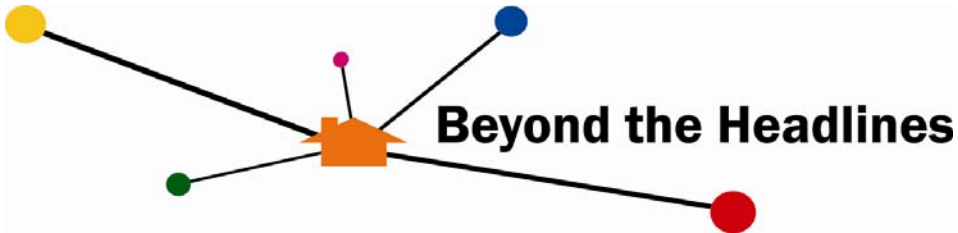
The U.S. Treasury Dept. announced yesterday it is providing additional funding to a California program to help homeowners struggling to make their mortgage payments due to unemployment. The program, administered through the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) will assist struggling borrowers make up to six months of mortgage payments. Lenders will be asked to match the government contribution.

#### KEEP THIS IN MIND

- The program aims to help 19,000 unemployed borrowers in California between its November launch and next July. An additional 23,000 borrowers will receive help over the next two years, according to CalHFA estimates.
- To qualify for the program, borrowers must be unemployed and eligible for unemployment benefits, and live in the home tied to the mortgage. Borrowers must be fewer than 90 days behind on mortgage payments and meet low- and moderate-income guidelines. Income requirements can be found at <http://keepyourhomecalifornia.com/income.pdf>.
- CalHFA is focusing on providing aid to unemployed borrowers struggling with purchase loans, excluding refinanced loans. According to CalHFA officials, it is too difficult to decide who "cashed out for a good reason and who didn't."
- More information about the CalHFA program, including eligibility, program summary, income requirements, and frequently asked questions, can be found at <http://keepyourhomecalifornia.com>.

To read the full story, please click here:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/08/12/2953229/42000-of-californias-jobless-will.html>



## In Other News...



Bloomberg

### **“Buy and Bail” homeowners get past loan restrictions**

Real estate professionals call it “buy and bail,” acquiring a new house before the buyer’s credit rating is ruined by walking away from the old because it’s “underwater,” or worth less than the mortgage. It’s an attempt to escape payments on a home whose value may never recover while securing a new property, often at a lower price with a more affordable mortgage.

To read the full story, please click here:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-10/-buy-and-bail-homeowners-get-past-mortgage-hurdles-from-fannie-freddie.html>



The Mercury News

### **Median home prices up in San Jose, San Francisco areas, most U.S. cities**

Home prices rose in nearly two-thirds of U.S. cities—including the San Jose and San Francisco areas—this spring as buyers took advantage of tax incentives that gave the struggling housing market a temporary jolt.

To read the full story, please click here:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_15742043](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15742043)



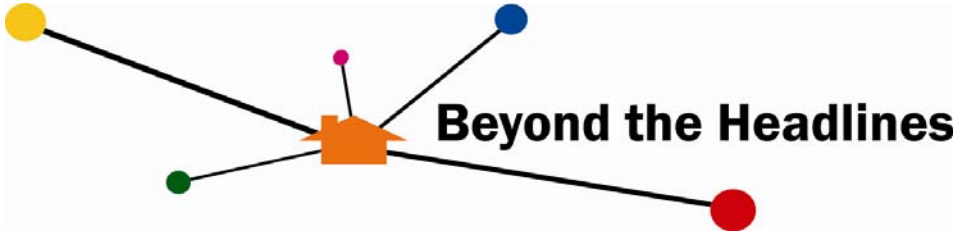
Los Angeles Times

### **Short sales soar in California, U.S.**

Sales of homes for less than the amount of their outstanding mortgage debt have tripled since 2008, particularly in California and the Sunbelt, according to a report released Tuesday.

To read the full story, please click here:

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-short-sales-20100811,0,7193924.story>



The Washington Post

**FHA tells Congress: Mortgage insurance claims are down; home prices a concern**

Mortgages backed by the Federal Housing Administration have performed better than expected so far this fiscal year, though the improvements could be overturned if home prices sink, according to a report the agency submitted to Congress last week.

To read the full story, please click here:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/03/AR2010080306749.html?hpid=sec-business>



CNN Money

**20 percent of mortgages are underwater**

More than 20 percent of the nation's mortgage borrowers owe more than their homes are worth.

To read the full story, please click here:

[http://money.cnn.com/2010/08/09/real\\_estate/fewer\\_underwater\\_borrowers](http://money.cnn.com/2010/08/09/real_estate/fewer_underwater_borrowers)



Los Angeles Times

**Shopping around for title insurance can cut closing costs**

If you finance your home through the normal lending process, a title search will undoubtedly turn up any liens for delinquent property taxes, unpaid loans, and unsettled claims by subcontractors for labor and materials.

To read the full story, please click here:

<http://www.latimes.com/business/realestate/la-fi-lew-20100808,0,7858566.story>



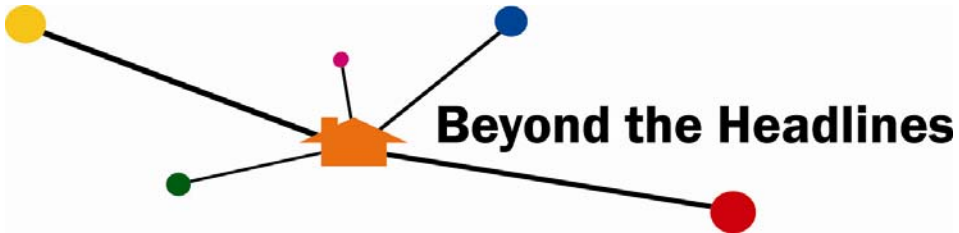
CNN Money

**Foreclosures rise in July**

The latest foreclosure numbers carried a mixed message: They're up 3.6 percent from the month before, but down 9.7 percent from 12 months earlier.

To read the full story, please click here:

[http://money.cnn.com/2010/08/12/real\\_estate/July\\_foreclosure\\_totals/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2010/08/12/real_estate/July_foreclosure_totals/index.htm)



### **What you should know about the market**

- Companies promising to reduce or eliminate credit card balances and other debt for customers no longer will be allowed to charge an up-front fee. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently announced new restrictions to crack down on the debt settlement industry. Beginning Oct. 27, debt settlement companies only will be able to charge a fee once a customer's debt has been reduced, settled, or renegotiated.
- The new FTC regulations also require debt settlement companies to disclose to customers how long it will take to get results, how much it will cost, and any negative consequences that could arise from the process.