

News at a Glance

Rodney King arrested, again

RIALTO, Calif. (AP) — Rodney King, the black motorist whose beating by Los Angeles police was videotaped a dozen years ago, was arrested for allegedly punching his girlfriend, authorities said.

King, 38, was booked for investigation of domestic violence on Oct. 11, then released Oct. 13 on \$50,000 bail, a records clerk at the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga said recently.



King

King's girlfriend, JoAnne Naser, 22, of Rialto telephoned police Saturday and said King punched her in the stomach during an argument that began the previous night, police Sgt. Shawn O'Connell said.

On Aug. 27, a San Bernardino County Superior Court judge sentenced King to a three-month alcohol awareness program and six months of drug treatment, then four months in jail after he pleaded guilty to driving under the influence and reckless driving.

He also was placed on three years of probation.

In 1991, King was pulled over for speeding in Los Angeles' eastern San Fernando Valley, where he was beaten by police officers who said he acted menacingly and refused to follow their orders. A bystander videotaped four white Los Angeles officers pummeling King with their nightsticks and feet and shooting him with stun-gun darts.

King has had a series of run-ins with the law in the years that followed, including a 1999 domestic violence conviction. In 2001, he pleaded no contest to indecent exposure and being under the influence of PCP and was sentenced to a year in a drug treatment center.

King was sentenced last Aug. 27 after police said he raced through a Rialto intersection at more than 100 mph in his new SUV on April 13 before losing control of the car, striking a utility pole, crashing into a fence and hitting a house. Authorities said tests revealed he had a "significant amount" of PCP in his system.

Study says Nigeria has the world's happiest people

LAGOS, Nigeria (IPS/GIN) — The happiest people in the world are Nigerians, while Americans are only the 16th happiest population, according to a new study of people in more than 65 countries.

Latin American countries also rank highly in the World Values Survey, published in the UK's New Scientist magazine. Nigeria is followed, in order, by Mexico, Venezuela, El Salvador and Puerto Rico. The least happy peoples, according to the study, are those in Russia and Eastern Europe. Romania is at the bottom of the list. Armenia is second from the bottom.

Former Virginia governor defends proposal against racism charge

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Supporters of a plan to elect Richmond's mayor are seeking accountability in local government, not hatching a racist plot, former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder said.

Wilder, the nation's first elected black governor, said he had no choice but to come to the defense of "12,000 racists and Uncle Toms," who have been so labeled by some opposed to Richmond shifting to an at-large elected mayor from one chosen by the City Council.

"I come here tonight not as a politician, but as a lawyer, a defense lawyer, to defend certain people," Wilder said last week at a gathering of a black civic group, the Richmond Crusade for Voters, which is opposed to the measure.

Supporters of an elected mayor secured 12,000 signatures from registered voters, nearly double the number needed to get the question on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Councilman Walter T. Kenney Sr. said he will ask the nine-member council to back a resolution opposing the at-large election at its Oct. 27 meeting. Kenney said he has four votes and is working on two more.

Since 1977, blacks have been the majority on the council, he said. Kenney predicted white people would mount a mayoral campaign with a single candidate and win with an all-white vote. He also said he fears a heavily-financed white candidate.

Wilder chided opponents who had introduced race into the issue. "Racism is in America. It has been," Wilder said. "This is not racism."



Wilder

Clark Atlanta cuts five graduate programs

ATLANTA (AP) — Budgetary problems forced Clark Atlanta University to cut five graduate programs, university officials said Friday.

The university's board of trustees voted to eliminate the Library and Information Studies, International Affairs and Development, Allied Health Professions, the Department of Engineering, and the Systems Science Ph.D. programs.

CAU President Walter Broadnax said that the cuts will help the university recover from its budgetary problems.

The cash-strapped college overspent its \$100 million budget by \$7.5 million last year, one of many in which the university ended the year in the red.

This summer, the university began a series of staggered layoffs and offered retirement buyouts to tenured faculty.

Clark Atlanta shut down Paschal's Restaurant, a historic eatery and civil rights meeting place, in July, citing financial difficulties. Broadnax said the university was losing \$500,000 a year operating the restaurant.

The decisions have drawn fire from faculty members and community activists. But Broadnax said changes were needed to keep the school afloat.

Census says grandparents raising grandchildren have higher poverty

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — More grandparents than ever are raising their grandchildren and a significant portion of them are living in poverty, the Census Bureau said in a report released recently.

About 19 percent of grandparent caregivers lived below the poverty line in 1999, compared with 14 percent of all families living with children.

The report, culled from 2000 census data, found that about a third of the 2.4 million grandparents who are primary caregivers to their grandchildren lived in homes without the children's parents.

In many cases, it's because one or both parents are in jail or on drugs, say advocacy groups who urged Congress to provide more help. They noted several bills are pending aimed at helping caregiving grandparents with basic costs and housing, though the full House and Senate have yet to vote on the measures.

"Those that need financial support deserve financial support to keep their families together and that's something that policy-makers have not dealt with yet," said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United, which advocates for families in which elderly and young people live together.

One of the greatest needs is more outreach centers that could help these families find legal, financial, medical and social services, said Jim Parkel, president of AARP, the nation's largest organ-



ization for older Americans.

Diane Thibodeau, 50, of Sebring, Fla., has raised two grandsons — ages 2 and 3 — on her own since March 2002. She doesn't work anymore because of a back injury, her husband died two years ago, and she said the children's father is emotionally unstable and their mother had a drug problem.

Thibodeau said she gets \$241 a month in public assistance for raising the two boys, along with \$300 a month from the boys' father, and some disability pay. But she struggles sometimes to pay for such things as clothes or

shoes. "What do you have to do, go begging?" she asked.

"But they're worth it," she said. "They don't know any other Mommy but me."

Congress first took interest in the plight of grandparents as caregivers while reforming the nation's welfare system in 1996, but because little government data existed on the issue, lawmakers ordered the Census Bureau to ask about it in 2000.

The census report expanded on previously released data from the 2000 head count. Specifically, three questions on grandparents were asked on the "long-form"

questionnaire distributed to about one of six households.

One question asked if a grandparent was responsible for "most of the basic needs" of a grandchild in the home. "Yes" was the answer from 42 percent, or 2.4 million, of the nearly 5.8 million grandparents living with grandchildren.

In West Virginia, 52 percent of the 30,833 grandparents living with grandchildren said they were the primary caregivers.

The closest the census had come in the past to addressing this issue was to estimate the percent-

See **Grandparents** on A9

Producer sues Beyoncé, father over song

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON, Texas — A 32-year-old producer has filed a \$200 million lawsuit against Beyoncé Knowles, her father and fellow members of Destiny's Child, alleging they stole his music for the hit song "Survivor."

Terrence "T-Robb" Robinson, a Miami-based producer, claims he produced a song called "Glorious" in June 2000 and provided it to Matthew Knowles, Beyoncé's father and manager, later that year in October.

Robinson's attorney claims the producer later heard the song used in a commercial, without his permission. Robinson said the song would have been his big break in the music industry.

"I know right now I would be one of the biggest, most sought-after producers," he said at a

news conference Tuesday. "Survivor" was the title of Destiny's Child's 2001 album, which sold millions of copies. The title song was a No. 2 hit that year and earned the group a Grammy in 2002 for best R&B performance.

Robinson's attorney, Peter J. Clarke, admitted that when Robinson provided Matthew

Knowles with his song, it was not copyrighted, but a copyright was later secured.

"Ultimately at the end of the day, what is going to decide this lawsuit is the music," Clarke said.

Knowles' attorney, Thomas Sulkerson, said Tuesday he had not yet seen the

lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in Houston on Oct. 14.

In addition to Houston-based Destiny's Child, whose members include Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams, the lawsuit also names Sony Music Entertainment, Columbia Records, Music World Entertainment and State of Mind Music Inc.

This is the second lawsuit sparked by the "Survivor" song. Last year, two former members of the group sued Destiny's Child, claiming the song included derisive comments about them. The lawsuit was later settled.



Matthew Knowles



Beyoncé

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