

News at a Glance

Farrakhan underwent 12-hour operation

CHICAGO (AP) — Minister Louis Farrakhan, who recently ceded leadership of the Nation of Islam to an executive board due to ailing health, has undergone a 12-hour operation, the organization said Saturday.



Farrakhan

Physicians have told Farrakhan's family they were pleased with the operation's outcome and will monitor him closely for the next 24 to 48 hours, the Chicago-based group said in a statement.

No other details were released, and a man who answered the telephone at the office of Farrakhan's chief of staff declined to reveal the nature of the surgery or where it was performed.

The 73-year-old Farrakhan wrote in a Sept. 11 letter to followers that he was anemic and 20 pounds lighter because of complications from an ulcer in the anal area. He had surgery in 2000 for prostate cancer.

He turned leadership of the Nation of Islam over to an executive board while he recovered, saying the movement must prove that it "is more than the charisma, eloquence and personality" of one person.

The Nation of Islam and the movement newspaper the Final Call posted the statement on their Web sites, but did not give additional details.

Second gangster held in LA hate crime

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A second reputed Hispanic gang member was arrested in connection with the shooting death of a 14-year-old black girl that police have described as a hate crime.

Jonathan Fajardo, 18, was believed to be the gunman who opened fire on a group of black youngsters on Dec. 15 as they stood on a narrow street in the Harbor Gateway area, police said.

Cheryl Green was killed and two other girls and a boy were wounded.

Green was not a gang member. Family members said she wanted to be a doctor.

Fajardo was arrested Thursday at his home in neighboring Carson, and police found a gun that will be tested to determine if it was the murder weapon, police Deputy Chief Charlie Beck said.

"Over the course of the last two weeks, we committed every resource to solving this crime," Beck said Friday. "I hope the community will feel safer now."

Another reputed gangster, Ernesto Alcaez, 20, was arrested on Dec. 21. He was scheduled to be arraigned on murder, attempted murder and hate crime charges.

Both could face the death penalty if convicted.

"By no means is this case over," Beck said. "The family will never recover, and the neighborhood has some serious wounds because of this."

NAACP says Congress is "Unacceptable"

"Unacceptable" is how the NAACP describes the performance of members of the U.S. Congress in addressing fundamental civil rights agenda items in the last two years. In its final Legislative Report Card on the 109th Congress (which adjourned Dec. 9, 2006) the NAACP found only slight improvement in the voting record among members of both chambers. The majority of U.S. Senators (54 out of 100) and Representatives (225 out of 435) voted in support of the NAACP's position less than 59 percent of the time, receiving a grade of "F" from the NAACP.

"This report confirms that there is a lack of alignment between the priorities of the communities the NAACP was founded to serve and the majority of the members of Congress," said NAACP President & CEO Bruce S. Gordon. "While we celebrated some hard-earned victories, more often than not policy makers failed to address issues that continue to burden our communities. While we are disappointed, we are also determined. We will continue to hold our Association accountable for engaging our senators and representatives, advocating on behalf of our people and relentlessly pursuing our mission until we succeed."

Since 1914 the NAACP Legislative Report Card has presented a summation of key civil rights votes taken in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. It is designed to provide NAACP members with insight into the voting patterns of their congressional representatives.

"The latest legislative report card shows how members voted on 28 key votes in the Senate [out of a total of 645 recorded votes in the entire 109th Congress] and 36 priority votes in the House of Representatives [out of a total of 1,214 cast in the entire 109th Congress]," said NAACP Washington Bureau Director Hilary O. Shelton.

Supreme Court agrees to hear Coke's appeal in a race discrimination case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday agreed to consider a discrimination case in which a Coca-Cola bottling company fired a black employee.

Coca-Cola asked the Supreme Court to hear the lawsuit, which involves allegations that a supervisor of employee Stephen Peters was motivated by racial bias and influenced a manager to fire the worker.

Such circumstances are sometimes referred to as "cat's paw" or "rubber stamp" liability. Coca-Cola fired Peters for insubordination after he refused a request to work on a weekend during his scheduled days off.

The case was one of seven appeals the court accepted Friday.

A federal appeals court reinstated a lawsuit brought on Peters' behalf by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The appeals court said a federal judge placed too much emphasis on the fact that Peters' immediate supervisor made no express recommendation to fire him.

In asking the court to hear the case, the company asked the justices to consider when an employer may be held liable for intentional discrimination when the person who fired an employee harbored no discriminatory bias.

The Chronicle (USPS-067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

Mrs. King also remembered this year

BY ERRIN HAINES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — On a recent afternoon, Jeffrey and Liza Dunn brought their daughter and niece to the center dedicated to the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., where the family took a moment to sit by the crypt of the civil rights icon and his wife, Coretta.

There, at the reflecting pool, the Plainfield, N.J., couple told the girls about King's dreams of racial harmony, economic equality and world peace. They also spoke of a dedicated widow, devoted mother and matriarch of the civil rights movement, who gracefully struggled against war, poverty and racism for years even after her husband was killed.

"Their partnership is the foundation of everything we've benefited from," Jeffrey Dunn, 49, said. "And even in her absence, she leaves a legacy, a commitment to his dream."

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, first observed more than two decades ago, will be the first without Coretta Scott King, who died nearly a year ago. The absence of her



NNPA Photo

The King children watch as their mother's casket arrives.

stately presence at the holiday activities held each year in King's hometown of Atlanta will be a visible reminder that the standard bearer of King's vision is now gone — and that the holiday has evolved to reflect the accomplishments

and mission of both the dreamer and the dream keeper.

"Her commitment and her accomplishments were equal to his," Spelman College history professor William Jelani Cobb said. "To view her as an equal in helping to establish racial

democracy in America would be fitting."

Coretta Scott King, who lived twice as long as Martin Luther King Jr., fought to preserve his legacy — building a center of nonviolence bearing

See Kings on A9

Accused police officers can return to work

BY STACEY PLAISANCE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — All seven policemen charged in the deadly bridge shootings after Hurricane Katrina were free on bail last week, and a judge said the six still on the New Orleans Police force can return to limited duty.

One former officer, now a truck driver in Texas, can also return to work, Judge Raymond Bigelow said.

Four of the officers face first-degree murder charges that carry a possible death sentence, in addition to attempted murder charges. Three others face only attempted murder charges. All seven pleaded not guilty Friday. They were indicted last week and turned themselves in.

Bigelow said five of the seven will be required to wear monitoring devices and will be confined to home, work, attorney

visits or court appearances as a condition of bail. Two who face the least number of charges had already bailed out earlier in the week and were allowed to remain free on bail after Friday's hearing. They will not be required to wear monitors.

The amount of bail varied based on the number of counts each officer faces but in no case was it less than \$100,000.

Although Bigelow said the officers can work, Assistant Police Superintendent Steven Nicholas said no decision had been made on when, or whether, they would be returned to duty. They were put on a 120-day unpaid suspension after the indictments, he said.

Sgt. Kenneth Bowen and

Robert Gisevius Jr., officer Anthony Villavaso II and former officer Robert Faulcon Jr., face first-degree murder charges and attempted murder charges.

Officers Robert Barrios and Mike Hunter Jr. were charged with attempted first-degree murder, and Officer Ignatius Hills was charged with attempted second-degree murder.

Hunter and Hills made bail earlier this week.

Fraternal Order of Police lawyer Donovan Livaccari said he will urge Police Superintendent Warren Riley to let the officers return to work, but he would expect it to be on a limited basis.

"It won't be on the street. It won't be in uniform," Livaccari

said.

Tracie Washington, spokeswoman for the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, expressed disappointment that officers accused of murder would be allowed out and to return to work. She and other NAACP representatives hoped to meet with Riley to ask that the officers not be allowed to return to duty.

"There should be accountability on both sides. We want a fair trial, but we want the community to feel safe," she said.

As one of the officers left the courthouse, surrounded by attorneys and police officers, a small group of activists shouted "murderer."

Bail on a first-degree murder charge is rare in Louisiana, defense lawyer Franz Ziblich acknowledged but added:

See Cops on A11

Your Mail-Order Diabetic Delivery Service



MED-CO
Diabetic Supplies, Inc.

Durable Medical Equipment

Dedicated to providing recipients with the best service possible, by offering a hassle-free way of receiving diabetic supplies-delivered directly to your door.

www.medcodiabetic.com
(336) 661-1669 • 1-800-408-0240

MED-CO for LIFE ... Your Life

First Time Homebuyers You May be Eligible if:

- You buy a home in North Carolina.
- You do not own a home currently or have not owned a home as your principal residence during the past 3 years.
- Your annual income doesn't exceed the county's allowable maximum income limits.
- You are a reasonable credit risk.

Realizing the dream of homeownership could be just a phone call away.

Call 760.4911

You may also be eligible for:

Free Home Buyer Education • \$4,000 from IDA Program • \$5,000 from Winston-Salem Housing Authority • \$5,500 from the City of Winston-Salem • \$10,000 from Forsyth County Housing • \$20,000 from NC Housing Finance Agency
Note: Loan approvals based upon credit history and other related factors. Certain restrictions apply. *WFS Housing Authority Residents Only.



GRANITE MORTGAGE, INC.
Financing The American Dream

791 Jonestown Road, Suite 110
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
www.granitemortgageinc.com