

# News at a glance

## Santiago dies at 82

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Carlos Manuel Santiago, a star infielder in the Negro leagues during the 1940s, died Sunday. He was 82.

He died of cardiac failure at his home in Mayaguez, son Carlos Manuel Santiago Feliciano said. Santiago played second base and shortstop for the New York Cubans in 1945-46. He was invited to spring training by the Cleveland Indians in 1951 but was soon drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Korea. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant about two years later.

This year, Santiago was among the former Negro leaguers invited to attend a ceremonial draft organized by major league baseball.

The Negro leagues lasted from the late 1800s until the mid-1950s, providing a professional outlet for black players. After Jackie Robinson broke the racial barrier in 1947, more blacks joined the majors and the Negro leagues faded.

During much of his retirement, Santiago worked as a coach and scout. He was a general manager for three seasons at Puerto Rico's Mayaguez Indians club, where he got his start playing in 1944. He was inducted into Puerto Rico's Baseball Hall of Fame in 1993.

## Slave's daughter dies at 110

**AUSTIN (AP)** — Amanda Roberts Jones, a slave's daughter who lived to be 110 and voted for the country's first African-American president, has died, her family said.

Jones, who died last Thursday, became a local celebrity after she mailed in her ballot for President-elect Barack Obama in late October. When word of her vote spread, Jones was profiled on National Public Radio and ABC News. More than 200 people signed an online petition to send her to Obama's inauguration.

Her granddaughter, Brenda Baker, said Jones had recently been hospitalized, but she was still preparing for a standing-room only birthday party Sunday afternoon. She celebrated her birthday Dec. 16. Jones went to sleep Thursday morning and didn't wake up, her granddaughter told the Austin American-Statesman, which reported her death Friday.

"She lived awful long," Baker said. "It was a full life, and her faith in God helped her live a long life."

Birthday cards from around the country had been arriving at her home, Baker said.

The middle child of 13, Jones was part of an African-American family that has lived in Bastrop County for five generations. Her family remained a fixture in Cedar Creek and other parts of the county even when its members had to eat at segregated barbecue dives and walk through the back door while white customers walked through the front, said Amanda Jones' 68-year-old daughter, Joyce Jones.

## Morris Brown's water shut off

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Atlanta water service shut off to Morris Brown College until the school pays its \$380,000 water bill.

Acting President Dr. Stanley Pritchett appealed to the community Sunday for help. Pritchett also says the school sent out an e-mail to more than 7,000 former students seeking help.

Pritchett says the school needs \$1.5 million to pay bills and other operating costs. He says the school is completing a business plan to restructure its debt. But he says the school will not operate without basic services, such as water.

Students are set to return to campus next month.

The historically black institution has faced an uphill battle ever since losing its accreditation, causing enrollment to drop sharply.

## Robert Mugabe says 'Zimbabwe is mine,' won't be toppled

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)** — President Robert Mugabe declared Friday that "Zimbabwe is mine," saying only Zimbabweans can remove him from power and that no African nation is brave enough to wrest it from him.

The ever-defiant Mugabe — in power for nearly three decades — hit back after the top U.S. envoy to Africa called for the "person who has ruined the country" to step down.

"I will never, never sell my country. I will never, never, never surrender," Mugabe told members of his ZANU-PF party. "Zimbabwe is mine, I am a Zimbabwean, Zimbabwe for Zimbabweans. Zimbabwe never for the British. Britain for the British."

He was cheered by flag-waving supporters at an annual three-day convention in Bindura, 60 miles northeast of Harare, the capital. Some wore shirts printed with pictures of Mugabe's face and sang his praise: "Stay with us. We know you are our president."

Mugabe, 84, has ruled the country since its 1980 independence from Britain and refused to leave office following disputed elections in March.

He has faced renewed criticism amid a humanitarian crisis that has pushed thousands of Zimbabweans to the point of starvation and left 1,123 people dead from cholera since August. President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have called for Mugabe to step down.

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# Hairdressers want the chance to style Michelle Obama's hair

BY GILLIAN GAYNAIR  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — Hair salon owner Barry Fletcher sent Michelle Obama a 17-minute DVD about himself. Hairdresser Keith Harley uploaded his resume to President-elect Barack Obama's Web site. And salon owner Nicole Cober-Blake plans to get her name in by sending a welcome basket with bath gels, hair products and a robe.

There are plenty of unanswered questions buzzing around the Obamas' impending arrival, but one has hairdressers on the edge of their styling chairs: Who will be chosen to do Michelle Obama's hair?

Rather than venture out for hair appointments, the first lady typically invites beauticians to the White House. Some of the region's black salon owners hope their experience with ethnic hair could give them an edge over those who coiffed the likes of Laura Bush or Hillary Clinton.

Fletcher, the 52-year-old owner of The Hair Palace Salon in Mitchellville, Md., cites his experience in international hair-styling challenges and working with actress Halle Berry and singer Mya, a Washington native.

"I'm going to be doing her hair!" Fletcher said, if he has anything to say about it. "This would pretty much validate all of my hard work and effort to get to a level where I could handle a powerful queen like the first lady."

Not that it's all glamour for the stylist. Bernard Portelli, who briefly styled Hillary Clinton's bob back in 1993, recalled working in a simple room in the White House with a shampoo basin, two chairs and plenty of outlets for blow dryers and flat irons. He's not necessarily eager to go back.



WSSU Photo

Michelle Obama will soon be the first lady of the United States.

"You have all kind of last-minute phone calls, which is extremely hard for someone who has a large clientele in a salon to drop everything and go," said 57-year-old Portelli, who owns Georgetown's Okyo Salon.

Still, if Obama's tresses dazzle the public, it would be a public relations coup for any salon. Nuri Yurt of Georgetown's Toka Salon attracted attention after he began styling Laura Bush's hair in 2005. Earlier this year, Vogue magazine called him one of the country's best colorists for

brunettes.

"It's permanent advertising, if you will, for the salon," Portelli said.

From the stylists' perspective, Obama doesn't need much help — they describe her hair as classic in style, healthy and free-spirited.

For election night, Michael "Rahni" Flowers of Van Cleef Hair Studio in Chicago — Obama's stylist since she was 18 — did her hair. And for the Democratic National Convention, Obama turned to

See Hair on A4

# NAACP investigates possible hate crime death

BY ALICE THOMAS-TISDALE  
THE JACKSON ADVOCATE

**JACKSON, Miss. (NNPA)**

— The explanation given by a George County sheriff's deputy in the death of high school football star Billey Joe Johnson Jr. has the George County NAACP throwing yellow flags all over the pavement in the small community of Lucedale, Miss.

If foul play has occurred, the NAACP says the penalty could go as far as being identified as a hate crime. The Johnson family has asked the NAACP to step in to investigate their son's death. George County NAACP president Willie Gaines and Curley Clark, second vice president of the Mississippi State Conference NAACP, are the lead investigators.

In part, the statement by the George County Sheriff's office reads: "He [the deputy] was sitting in his patrol vehicle ... when he heard a gunshot and saw the victim laying on the ground by the driver's side door of the vehicle that Johnson was driving. A shotgun was lying on the victim."

The NAACP has learned that Johnson, an African-American, was dating a white female who has a relationship with someone at the George County Sheriff's office.

"For this reason we have alerted the FBI to possible civil rights violations. If the autopsy report reveals that Billey's death was not an accident, we want Johnson's death treated as a hate crime," Clark stated.

Autopsy reports from the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and State NAACP's independent pathologist won't be available for another few weeks. But the NAACP has already ruled out suicide. "It can only be accidental death or homicide," stated Clark.

At first, local authorities were only trying to decide if the death was by suicide or by accident.

"We recreated the scene. Using a full choke, 12-gauge shotgun, there's no way Johnson could have committed suicide. Billey was shot in the left, back part of his head. He's right-handed," said Clark.

The NAACP also agrees with the family that the 17-year-old had everything to live for. Johnson was one of the highest rated high school athletes in the state with offers to Auburn, Alabama and Mississippi. He was excited about attending a football awards banquet that was to take place the evening of Dec.



Billey Joe Johnson Jr.

8. The tragic incident occurred around 6 a.m., well before sunrise.

"Nothing supports the notion that the junior running back was in the state of mind to kill himself. He was not suicidal or depressed," stated Clark.

"It was dark so the officer should have had a flashlight to look inside the vehicle with," Clark said. The NAACP's investigation has uncovered

that a 911 call occurred shortly before the traffic stop, which brings into question if the sheriff's deputy was pursuing Johnson based on the 911 call or a traffic stop. The 911 call involved a report from a local resident of an apparent break-in at a trailer park.

"The statement the deputy gave is suspect. You mean to tell me that an officer of the law is going to walk up to a

See Johnson on A4

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